

Dumas, Delors warn U.S.

RAMATVILLE, France (AP) — France warned the United States Monday against trying to rule the world and said the U.N. and Europe should counterbalance the influence of the only superpower left after the collapse of Soviet communism. "American might reigns without balancing weight," French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas told political associates. "I am telling our American friends: They must realize that being the world's top power creates not only possibilities and rights... but also duties," he told a meeting of the ruling Socialist Party in this southern resort. Jacques Delors, the French president of the European Community Commission, also told the seminar Washington could not take charge of the whole world. Both Mr. Dumas and Mr. Delors said the United Nations and the European Community should counterbalance American influence. They added that the role of the U.N. should be boosted and that European countries should join EC nations in a European confederation. "If Europe wants to share the world's leadership, it must equip itself to do so," Mr. Delors said.

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جوردان تايمز اليومية المستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Libya-bound cargo seized in Hamburg

BONN (AP) — Investigators seized a shipment of Libya-bound machinery at Hamburg harbour and launched a probe to determine if a German firm was trying to help the Libyans build rockets, officials said Monday. German authorities stressed, however, there were no indications the company was actually guilty of wrongdoing. The raid occurred on July 16. The machinery was to be shipped on a Libya-registered freighter, said Hans-Joachim Blumensatt, chief prosecutor in Wiesbaden where the investigation is based. Offices of the Fritz Werner Company, owner of the ship, were also searched and documents seized, Mr. Blumensatt said. The raids followed a tip by "intelligence sources" that the material could be intended for rocket production, said Volker Franzen, spokesman for the federal economics ministry. However, Mr. Franzen and Mr. Blumensatt said no evidence has yet been found the equipment was meant for military use. Mr. Franzen did not identify the "intelligence sources." During the past few years, U.S. intelligence has tipped off German officials about suspected illegal military deliveries. Mr. Blumensatt identified the seized shipment as an industrial oven and a fiber-wrapping machine. Mr. Franzen said authorities later deemed the equipment does not need a federal export permit.

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Regent meets Masri

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday visited the Prime Minister, where he held talks with Prime Minister Taher Masri.

Distribution of food coupons resumed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply Monday resumed distributing food ration coupons to citizens through its 90 centres. The coupons entitle holders to get sugar, rice and milk for subsidised prices during the coming four months. Ministry of Supply sources said the ministry will form committees in government departments, companies, banks, the armed forces and the security departments to distribute the coupons to citizens at their work place to save them time and effort.

Dutch parliament delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An eight-member parliamentary delegation from the Netherlands arrived in Amman via Ramtha Monday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which it will hold talks with the speaker of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the foreign minister and other Jordanian officials. The talks will deal with the situation in the region. The delegation was received in Al Ramtha border post by Al Ramtha Deputy Mohamad Al Dardour, the district governor, and other officials.

Ben Alawi visits Yemen

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Ben Alawi flew Monday to Sana'a to resume a process of developing bilateral ties that had been interrupted by the merger of North and South Yemen and the Gulf crisis last year. The official Oman News Agency quoted Mr. Ben Alawi as saying he would hold consultations with the Yemeni officials on various issues and work for bolstering bilateral ties between the Omani and Yemeni nations.

Iliescu in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Romania's President Ion Iliescu arrived in Israel Monday, making him the first president from his country to visit the Jewish state. The four-day visit comes at a time when Israel is strengthening ties with east European countries. All but Romania severed ties with Israel after the 1967 war.

Agheh summit on September 15

ABAT (R) — A summit of the Maghreb states will begin inablanca on Sept. 15. Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Bazzi announced. He told a preparatory meeting of local officials inablanca that foreign ministers will meet on Sept. 13 and 14. A five members of the Arab League (AMU) — Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia — were initially due to hold their summit in Libya in June but it was postponed due to political uncertainties after the Gulf war. King Hassan of Morocco took over the AMU chairmanship for a year at the request of Mauritania, which stepped down because of domestic problems.

Shamir accuses Syria of smuggling drugs to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Monday Syrian government officials are involved in the smuggling of drugs from Lebanon to Israel. He said on all countries that have started with Damascus to put pressure on the government of Hafez Al Assad to end drug production in Lebanon. "Smuggling to our country is mainly from Lebanon, the Golan Heights, the Golan Heights, the Golan Heights, the Golan Heights," Shamir said in a speech to an Israeli organization. "It is no secret that Syrian government officials have been involved in illegal enterprise," he added.

Gorbachev, republic leaders turn table against hardliners

U.S. recognises Baltic independence

The Associated Press

PRESIDENT MIKHAIL Gorbachev and leaders of 10 Soviet republics closed ranks against hardliners Monday and proposed creating a loose federation that would strip the Kremlin of most of its responsibilities.

U.S. President George Bush granted full diplomatic relations to the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, formally recognizing the independence of nations that were annexed by the Soviet Union in a 1940 deal with Nazi Germany.

Mr. Bush made the expected announcement after waiting in vain for Soviet lawmakers to do the same. Nonetheless, he hailed the pace of change in Moscow and offered strong praise for President Gorbachev.

"The fact that I think he's done an awful lot for the world is out there for all to see," said Mr. Bush. He said of the collapse of Soviet communism:

"I think history will write this month down as one of the most important turning points toward a genuine new world order and certainly a turning point toward freedom and democracy. It's been monumental."

Mr. Bush was asked if there needed to be a central government at all, and he said, "I think there's got to be some government with which the United States works on many questions," such as nuclear defence and Middle East diplomacy.

Mr. Bush said he was sending U.S. officials to the Baltic nations to assess what medical and food assistance should be extended during the difficult economic months to come.

He said it was premature to discuss how much aid might be sent, but he said "we are limited in what we can do." He noted the United States is also committed financially to Eastern Europe — "It's also very important that Czechoslovakia and Poland and Hungary succeed."

More than 30 nations have recognized the Baltics since last month's failed coup in the Soviet Union. Mr. Bush said he had spoken to the presidents of the Baltic states and told them independence would be recognized Monday.

The republics that endorse the interim plan agreed between Mr. Gorbachev and the 10 republic leaders Monday would have far more power, with central authorities controlling little more than defense and foreign affairs.

The proposals called for signing a treaty recognizing a union of sovereign states with each republic free to define its own form of participation in the union and engage in economic union irrespective of political ties.

Also proposed was granting independence to the five republics that did not initially endorse the proposals — the three Baltic states, Moldova and Georgia — although that issue has not been fully resolved.

Mr. Gorbachev and republic leaders urged preservation of a single armed force and pledged reform of the military and security agencies such as the KGB and interior ministry police.

They also suggested that the republics apply separately to the United Nations to make them subject to international law.

Hardliners at the session had planned an attempt to vote Mr.

Gorbachev out of the Soviet presidency. Instead, the proposals by Mr. Gorbachev and 10 republic leaders represented a pre-emptive strike intended to strip power from the congress and parts of the central government.

At the end of the morning session, the microphones were turned to turn back hardliners' attempts to address the assembly. Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev read the proposals at the opening of an extraordinary session of the Congress of People's Deputies.

The proposals seek "to prevent the uncontrolled dissolution of the union and coordinate actions for the transition period" to a reformed union, Mr. Nazarbayev said. The coup, he said, brought the country "to the verge of a catastrophe."

After a 3½-hour recess, the congress reconvened and leaders of delegations representing the republics said they supported the proposals. Deputies then voted 1,350-107 to put the question on the agenda, moving it closer toward passage.

Even representatives of the secessionist republics of Georgia and Moldova supported the proposals, provided their independence was recognized.

A representative of Latvia also spoke, but said nothing about the proposal; rather, he handed Mr. Gorbachev an appeal asking for the Soviet leader to issue a decree recognizing the independence of Latvia.

Mr. Gorbachev took forceful control of the afternoon session. "I am not going to listen to any demonstrations or demonstrative

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Israel says Baker due in Mideast; Bush reports 'no present plans'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will return to the Middle East this month to conclude terms with both Israelis and Arabs for a peace conference, the Israeli foreign ministry said Monday.

Israeli media and diplomatic sources said he was expected in Israel next week after the Jewish new year holiday, which would prevent meetings on Monday and Tuesday.

It would be the seventh visit to the region by Mr. Baker, who has been trying since the end of the Gulf war to convince Israel and the Arab states to hold a peace conference tentatively scheduled for October.

"There have been exchanges, communications between us and the Americans and talks the Arab countries to tie the whole thing up," said foreign ministry spokesman Zeev Dover. "There are still some questions that have not been finalized, the formula has

not been finalized."

"We assume that Mr. Baker will be trying on his forthcoming visit during September before the provisional date in October to cross the ts and dot the is — not only with us, he has others to talk to," he said.

However, President George Bush denied the report, saying Monday "there are no plans" to send Mr. Baker back to the Mideast.

Speaking at a news conference called in Kennebunkport, Maine, to announce U.S. recognition of the three Baltic republics, Mr. Bush also said he did not think the turmoil in the Soviet Union had adversely affected Middle East peace prospects. "The ball lies in other courts," he said.

The Israeli daily Yedioth Ahronoth said Mr. Baker was expected to arrive in Israel this weekend, while Israel Radio said he would begin his latest shuttle among Arab capitals on Sept. 12.

The peace conference would be held under U.S. and Soviet auspices and attended by officials from Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. The main holdup has been over the terms under which the Palestinians would participate.

An unidentified Israeli foreign ministry official told the AP Israel had "general knowledge of Secretary Baker's intention to come sometime in September."

The official, who the AP said agreed to discuss the trip only if not quoted by name, said the radio report "stands to reason," but that Israel had "no firm knowledge about an imminent date."

Mr. Baker will try to work out a compromise between the two sides on the Palestinian issue, the radio said.

Differences over terms for attending peace talks and the abortive coup in Moscow have raised doubts over timing of the conference, but Mr. Dover told Reuters Israel has not been told of any change in the original October date.

The Palestinians are the only major participant in the proposed talks yet to accept the U.S. plan, stalled by internal debate over whether to accept advance concessions demanded by Israel.

Israel has conditionally accepted Mr. Baker's proposal but has demanded the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem be barred from any role in the talks.

Palestinians reject these demands.

Mr. Baker would have to bridge that gap, reassuring an Israeli government that fears peace talks could force it to withdraw from occupied Arab territories such as East Jerusalem while persuading Palestinians it is in their interest to accept tough Israeli terms for attending.

Israelis want Mr. Baker to pro-

(Continued on page 5)



EXPECTING ATTACK: Serbian villagers with a machinegun take position in Bijelo Brdo to counter an expected attack by Croatian forces fighting however died in Croatia Monday after Yugoslavia's warring factions signed a European Community (EC)-brokered peace plan.

Sporadic mortar attacks in various parts of Croatia were reported overnight but the major flashpoints appeared calm. Zagreb Radio said a policeman was killed in the eastern Croatian village of Laskovo and houses were set on fire in Gospić near the Adriatic coast (see page 8).

UNRWA chief arrives to assess possible help

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of the United Nations agency overseeing aid to Palestinian refugees arrived in Jordan Monday to consider how to help the Kingdom cope with a flood of expatriates forced from Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said Director General Ater Turkman was expected to

meet His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Taher Masri during his four days in Jordan.

In a statement to Jordan Television at the airport, Mr. Turkman said, "We know that Jordan is under a very heavy burden because of these arrivals and migrations. We, as UNRWA, will do our best to help those who need UNRWA's assistance."

"The only thing we know for sure is that there has been an increase in the student population of UNRWA schools," he said. "In the last years I believe some 5,000 new students have been added and we are now building new classrooms to accommodate the children. How much relief is needed and how much new clinics are needed I do not know. We are going to discuss these things

with the Jordanian government."

UNRWA provides education, health and other services to about 950,000 Palestinians who have registered with it in Jordan. About one-fourth of the registered Palestinian refugees still live in camps established in the Kingdom after the 1948 and 1967 wars with Israel drove hundreds of thousands of Palestinians across the River Jordan.

Kouchner: Jerusalem Palestinians warned against selling land to Jews

NAIROBI (Agencies) — France's minister for humanitarian affairs says John Garang is still in control of Sudanese rebels contrary to recent claims he was ousted, a newspaper reported Monday.

Bernard Kouchner said he met Colonel Garang in Kapoeta, a regional base for the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in southeastern Sudan near its border with Kenya over the weekend.

"He looked very well and very much in control," the daily Nation quoted Mr. Kouchner as saying. "He was surrounded by his nine commanders and nothing has happened to him."

Mr. Kouchner left Kenya Sunday evening and it was not possible to get further comment on his meeting with Col. Garang. The French minister was assessing humanitarian needs in southern Sudan where hundreds of thousands of drought victims and refugees need food.

On Friday, three top SPLA commanders issued a statement in Nasir, north of Kapoeta near Sudan's border with Ethiopia, claiming they had ousted Col. Garang.

The statement was signed by Lam Akol, formerly one of Col. Garang's top aides, and field commanders Riek Mashaar Teny Dhurgon and Gordon Koang Chol. They accused Col. Garang of a "reign of terror."

They said Col. Garang's conduct had created discontent among the rebels and was leading the movement "to doom."

The story was denied Saturday in Nairobi by SPLA members Justin Arop and Mario Muor. They said Col. Garang sent them to Kenya to refute the dissident claims.

Col. Garang, a renegade army official, assumed leadership of the rebellion in 1983 seeking greater autonomy and economic development for the south.

More than 200,000 people, mostly southerners, have been killed in fighting between the

dangerous situation and put the future of Jerusalem in the balance."

It called for a week of demonstrations, prayers at Christian and Muslim holy places in the city Sunday and Friday and mass visits to Jerusalem by Palestinians.

Israel claims East Jerusalem "annexed" after its seizure in the 1967 war, is part of the Jewish state's capital and demands it be excluded from future peace negotiations.

Palestinians regard East Jerusalem, home for 150,000 Arabs, as their future capital.

The Arab-Jewish struggle over East Jerusalem was heightened when Israel gave conditional support to U.S.-proposed Middle East peace talks in October.

Leaders of the uprising, which began in December 1987, urged Arabs living elsewhere to return to their homes in the city and

called for renovating run-down buildings to prevent them being taken over.

They said Israelis had been seizing houses inside and outside the walled Old City, buying property and setting up belts of settlements around it.

Police acting on a military order have shut down a Palestinian press service in Jerusalem for one year.

Documents and cash were also confiscated from the Al Quds Press Office, said a police spokesman. The office publishes a daily newsletter called Al Masira (the march).

Police said the office is used by the daily Al Quds, a prominent Arab East Jerusalem newspaper, but added that the newspaper is not affected by the closure. That newspaper's owner, Mahmoud Abu Zuhuf, said they had no connection with the closed press office.

Hamas offers to include missing Israeli in hostage-prisoner swap

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian fundamentalists in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip offered Monday to include a kidnapped Israeli soldier in an exchange for Western hostages held in Lebanon.

In a statement issued in Beirut, a spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said the group was holding Israeli soldier Ilan Saadon.

Mr. Saadon was kidnapped with another Israeli soldier by Hamas fighters in southern Israel May 3, 1989. The body of the other serviceman was found and the Israeli army assumes Mr. Saadon also died. His remains have not been found.

"It (Hamas) has started holding contacts with all forces and groups holding hostages and Israeli captives to take part in an exchange of captives," the statement added.

"Hamas will continue its efforts with all parties concerned to unify efforts and positions to finish this operation successfully," it said.

Hamas is a rival of the Palestine Liberation Organisation

land where, according to the daily Maariv, he met with various parties involved in locating the Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon.

In an interview, Mr. Zichroni declined to talk about his meetings, but said: "I was optimistic two months ago before the first Westerner was released and I said they would be released and everyone raised their eyebrows."

Mr. Zichroni added: "I say the process will continue, but I am not talking about the Israelis at this stage. My forecast is that it will not take long, according to... what I gather from what I hear."

The spiritual leader of Hizbollah has urged Germany to release two Palestinians it is holding as part of an overall prisoner exchange.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadallah told the weekly news magazine Der Spiegel in an interview published Monday he believed Bonn would find a compromise allowing it to release the Hamadi brothers, jailed on terrorism charges.

Amnon Zichroni spoke on his return from Austria and Switzer-

Gaza — a big prison with unbroken prisoners

By Chadeer Taher
Special to the Jordan Times

RAFAH — A rumbling noise breaks the menacing silence over this squalid shantytown. Army jeeps head towards Samira Al Jabari's asbestos roofed shack. Then there is a thunderous explosion.

Israeli soldiers shout incomprehensible orders in Hebrew and broken Arabic and children scream. Ms. Jabari's neighbours could not leave their homes to help the family because of a daily curfew in Gaza between 9:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.

The sound of crumbling walls faded and 60-year-old Um Adel started ululating and singing as if it was a wedding. She clapped her hands to anger the soldiers.

She now lives with her three sons, their wives and her grandchildren in a tent next to the ruins of her demolished home. But the Israeli soldiers told her she had to remove the tent because the land will also be confiscated as punishment for her son's "crimes."

"I am in black within myself, but I always wear red for my enemy," Um Adel said quoting an often repeated Palestinian proverb. "They will not break me or my family... we will manage," she said forcefully.

Her home was blown up because her eldest son Adel has been accused of being a member of the "Black Panthers," a Palestinian group which is accused by the Israelis of killing "collaborators."

According to a Western aid worker, at least 13 homes were demolished or sealed in Gaza between March and June this year, leaving over 150 people homeless.

Um Adel's fortune is a common phenomenon in Gaza's eight crowded refugee camps, but 24 years of occupation, neglect and internal socio-economic pressure have also left many Gazans desperate and hopeless.

"Life is so difficult here," said Tahani Al Ali, a young woman. "We have no peace, constant harassment, humiliation and the world has forgotten us."

Day in and out, Gaza's reality grinds everyone down. For most mothers it is a struggle to cope with hardships imposed

by the intifada and to sustain resistance to the occupation forces. They also have to cope with an uprising that for the time being has turned on itself with Palestinians killing Palestinians.

Women in downtown Gaza City wait in the unbearable heat near the barbed wire of the central Gaza prison and headquarters for Israel's domestic intelligence organisation — the Shin Bet — to see their sons. The prison, located in the heart of the city, was the main education centre in Gaza City.

International relief workers said there are over 4,000 Gazans in Israeli jails on intifada-related charges.

Children, dirty and unruly, play games in the maze of open sewers always with wooden or plastic guns as they act out martyrdom.

Gaza men stay close to their homes. Those with no prison records and relatives without records, may work in Israel, but the number had drastically declined.

Thousands leave at dawn for poorly paid jobs in construction, unskilled agriculture work and the most menial municipal services, returning before the curfew to Gaza, their grand prison.

Since the beginning of the Gulf crisis, thousands of Palestinians have been issued green identity cards, barring them from leaving the Gaza Strip or travelling to Israel thus further tightening the noose. The card has become a prison without bars for many Palestinians.

Cardholders, both in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, complain of harassment and beatings by police and automatic arrest if they are picked up during routine identity checks near a scene of unrest.

Before the intifada, 80,000 Gazans worked in Israel, 55,000 during the intifada and now only 25,000 make the daily trek to Erez checkpoint, Gaza's border with Israel.

"Gaza's economy is in tatters," said U.N. officer Issa Qarra. "We have a 40 per cent unemployment rate and they continue to tighten the screws."

After the Gulf war, remittances from relatives in Kuwait and the Gulf have been almost

reduced to a trickle and funds from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are less than one third the pre-Gulf war level.

According to PLO sources, the organisation used to channel almost \$300 million in assistance to the West Bank and Gaza before the Gulf crisis. Now the PLO sends about \$50 million annually. The figures could not be verified.

Alongside the intense pressure from the occupation forces and a moribund economy, some Gazan groups, including Hamas, have imposed Islamic codes on the inhabitants and banned any type of entertainment. Theatres, cultural centres and the only public garden are now closed to the public.

Women are forbidden from walking in the street without covering their hair. The retribution from the self-appointed guardians of the faith can be severe, including stabbing and stoning.

"I never used to wear a veil before the intifada and now I am forced to," said a young college-educated woman. "I am scared of the fundamentalists." She refused to give her name.

Women branded as "loose," gamblers and alcoholics do not survive in Gaza. They are considered security risks, on the grounds they can be used as informers to trap activists.

Some justify the enforced adherence to Islam and ban on entertainment by saying that all of Gaza is in mourning because every family has a story to tell of a son or relative who had either been killed, wounded or arrested.

Opponents say that Hamas is using pressure tactics to show it controls the Gaza Strip but in fact it does not and people only comply to their orders out of fear.

The tension in Gaza has turned inward as the Israeli army deliberately reduced its presence relying on local informers.

Since 1989, a total of 388 Palestinians have been killed for allegedly spying for Israel's security services in the occupied territories. Suspected collaborators are forewarned with beatings and tough interrogation sessions.

Many Palestinian leaders concede that many of the dead



A Palestinian shopkeeper sits outside his shop in the Gaza Strip while an Israeli soldier keeps watch on the street.

were not collaborators. But they say the killings have declined in the last few months.

Some have given up the struggle and have escaped Gaza's misery. Gazans recount stories of women and men who have committed suicide or have tried to "accidentally" burn themselves with paraffin oil.

According to a health official, suicide rates among men and women have more than tripled since the start of the intifada.

Over 750,000 Palestinians live in the Gaza Strip, with over 500,000 living in the vast refugee camps. Twenty-two Jewish settlements also dot the Mediterranean coastline overtaxing the water-starved 360 square kilometres area.

Palestinians say that coupled with the settlements, which divert water from Arab farms to satisfy the needs of the settlers, Israel has confiscated 35 per cent of the land of Gaza making the most densely populated place in the world an even more claustrophobic prison.

Kuwaitis clamour for U.S. bases

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwaitis are clamouring for U.S. troops and bases in the emirate but diplomats say this is ruled out under a protection agreement being negotiated with Washington.

"We are still afraid even to open our water taps, because we think Saddam and not water would trickle out," said an editorial in Monday's Al Qabas newspaper reflecting growing Kuwaiti fears.

A recent poll in the English-language Arab Times daily said 93 per cent of Kuwaitis wanted U.S. bases in the emirate and did not trust fellow Arabs to protect them.

Last month, Kuwait and its Arab Gulf allies shelved plans to create a joint security force.

The United States has made it clear it will not keep bases in Kuwait, but will maintain a naval presence in the Gulf.

One Western diplomat in Kuwait said recent reports in local papers of an imminent pact with Washington involving U.S. bases in the emirate were aimed at domestic consumption, "because of a state of hysteria among the Kuwaitis that Saddam will attack."

Western diplomats said secur-

ity arrangements between Kuwait and the United States would cover the use of Kuwaiti facilities, logistical support, joint exercises and training. The Americans would also keep military equipment in the emirate.

They said Washington would repair Kuwait's two airbases, Ahmad Al Jaber and Ali Al Salem, damaged in the Gulf war.

"But there will not be any permanent bases as the Kuwaitis want no permanent presence. The Kuwaitis should feel safe enough with the arrangements and with a continued naval presence," one diplomat said.

Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah was quoted Saturday as saying the emirate was about to sign an agreement guaranteeing U.S. protection.

He said he would visit Washington soon to sign a pact under which the United States would store weapons and carry out joint exercises in Kuwait.

Sheikh Ali said the pact covered military cooperation to keep regional peace, protection "of the two countries," the storage of weapons and equipment, and joint land, sea and air man-

oeuvres in Kuwait. He said Kuwait needed external protection but he did not support the idea of foreign bases "because Kuwait is small and the presence of bases in it makes it threatened all the time because of its proximity to the enemy."

Fears of the Iraqi threat were heightened on Wednesday when Kuwait said it had thwarted an incursion by armed Iraqis onto the strategic island of Bubiyan.

The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) is investigating the Kuwaiti reports, which Iraq denied.

"The Kuwaitis are trying to use any such Iraqi action to point out their vulnerability and the fact that Saddam is still after them. It will take them some time to realise that Saddam is in no position to attack them any more," one diplomat said.

On Tuesday Washington announced it would keep 1,500 ground troops in the emirate for several months longer than scheduled.

The first of the 1,500 troops started arriving Sunday to replace the 3,700 soldiers already in the emirate, who will finish their withdrawal by mid-September.

Iraq destroys bombs, shells

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has started destroying bombs and shells designed to carry chemical weapons, the head of a U.N. inspection team said Monday.

Canadian James Knapp, leader of one of two teams supervising preparations for the disposal of Iraq's chemical arsenal, said destruction of the empty munitions began Sunday.

The operation was being carried out at the Muthana storage site. A previous U.N. inspection team which visited Muthana, about 100 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, described it as a "chemical dustbin."

Mr. Knapp added: "Our mission is to observe if necessary the destruction by Iraq of its inert, non-filled munitions. For the last two days we have been witnessing Iraq destroying a lot of bombs and shells."

Mr. Knapp, from Ottawa, said: "We are not destroying any chemical agent this week at all. We are simply destroying bombs, artillery shells and the like that are not filled with any chemical agent. The destruction of chemical agents will be done at a later date."

Shin Bet agents get six months in jail for murder

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli supreme court rejected an appeal by two agents of Israel's Shin Bet security service and sent them to six months behind bars for beating an Arab prisoner to death in a Gaza Strip jail, a justice ministry official said Sunday.

The two Shin Bet interrogators were appealing a court decision which convicted them of negligence in the death of a 27-year-old Palestinian.

The two agents had requested to serve their sentences doing community service arguing that their identities would be revealed, endangering their lives if they went to jail.

"Only by serving time in jail, and not by community service... can we deter others from going in the same directions," supreme court justice Aharon Barak wrote.

Mr. Barak added that the tribunal was aware of the pressures facing the Shin Bet.

But he said the agents "acted illegally. They violated the human rights of the suspect, caused the death of a man, harmed the image of the general security

service and damaged the image of Israel as a lawful state."

The charge of manslaughter was brought against two agents in the death of Khaled Kamel Al Sheikh Ali, who died in December 1989 after being arrested on suspicion of belonging to the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Jihad organisation and of illegal possession of weapons.

In a plea bargain, the two agents, whose names were not released, pleaded guilty to charges of causing death by negligence, which carries a maximum sentence of three years.

"I think this sentence sounds like Shin Bet guys have killed an animal and not a human being," said Sheikh Ali's father, Kamel, upon hearing the sentence. "Is this a democracy we have been hearing from the Israelis?"

His voice cracking over the telephone, the older Sheikh Ali said he was worried Nasser, another son currently serving a three-year sentence for uprising activities, would meet the same fate as his brother at the hands of Israeli interrogators.

Soviet supplies to Afghans dry up

KABUL (R) — Vital Soviet food and fuel supplies to Afghanistan appear to have virtually dried up since the political convulsions in the Soviet Union, causing Kabul prices to soar along with fears about the coming winter.

Amid the rapid Soviet changes it was unclear whether the cuts were due to a policy decision in Moscow or confusion at the heart of the Soviet system, businessmen and diplomats in the Afghan capital said at the weekend.

Huge Soviet SU-76 transport planes still land at Kabul airport but their cargoes are mostly destined to the Afghan army, which is fighting Mujahideen guerrillas.

Little appears to be coming down the Salang Highway from the Soviet border — the main route across the high Hindu Kush Mountains for wheat and fuel convoys.

"Over the years the Soviet-backed government has come to expect a steady, seemingly inexhaustible flow of supplies from its northern neighbour," one Asian diplomat said.

That appears to have stopped for the moment, fulfilling President Najibullah's worst nightmare, he said.

With Moscow's help, the gov-

ernment has survived repeated guerrilla efforts to halt supplies reaching Kabul since the last Soviet troops left in 1989 after a nine-year occupation.

However, the Afghan president has seen some of his closest allies in Moscow purged in the past 10 days for their part in the attempted overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev, and the rise of Russian President Boris Yeltsin who makes no secret of his wish for change in Kabul.

Petrol and diesel shortages in Kabul are beginning to bite. Black market prices of both have nearly doubled in recent weeks and transport operators say they are cutting services.

Five litres of petrol now cost about 3,500 afghanis (\$3.5), nearly twice the daily wage of a Kabul labourer.

Last week President Najibullah said he was confident Moscow would stick to its commitments to Kabul.

However, the country had acquired only one-third of the wheat needed to survive the harsh Afghan winter until next March, Food Minister Anwar Dost said.

Devastating spring floods in the south have hampered normal summer stockpiling.

Businessmen said the government was hoping the private sector could fill the gap by trucking in supplies from Iran and Pakistan — nations that play host to guerrilla groups trying to topple Mr. Najibullah.

Private deals must be made in hard currency, however, and after years of war Kabul's semi-official money market is short of dollars.

"We want cash-in-hand assurances that the government will not force us to sell any wheat or fuel we manage to acquire from either Iran or the Soviet Union to the armed forces at cut rate prices," one businessman said.

Government workers in Kabul receive essentials through a ration system — when these are available. Ordinary residents rely on private bazaars where they can find expensive grain, sugar and cooking oil smuggled across the mountainous border from Pakistan.

With most people reliant on diesel fuel for heating and cooking in the coming months and with food prices rising, Afghans were preparing for a hard winter.

Qadhafi: Nothing to gain from animosity with U.S.

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi says he has nothing to gain from animosity with the United States and does not object to Arab mediation to improve ties with Washington.

The United States, whose planes attacked Libya in April 1986, has for years accused Colonel Qadhafi of sponsoring international terrorism. The Libyan leader consistently denies the charges.

"I have no objection to the efforts made by Egypt, Algeria and Morocco to improve relations between Libya and America because we have no interest in being enemies with America," he told cadets Saturday night at the coastal town of Benghazi.

"But we cannot go to America and say 'please don't be our enemy,'" said Col. Qadhafi, whose remarks were carried by the Libyan news agency JANA. "After all, we did not go to America and attack it."

He said the leaders of the three

countries — Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, Algeria's Chadli Benjedid and Morocco's King Hassan — had promised to work to improve Libya's ties with Washington.

"I did not say no to them but I must put the issue to the Libyan Arab people and the people's conferences which decide on foreign policy issues and how relations with America should be," said Col. Qadhafi, who marked his 22nd year in power Sunday.

Col. Qadhafi also said, he stands by every word of a congratulatory message he sent to the leader of the abortive coup against Mikhail Gorbachev.

"I insist on the message I sent and on every word in it. It is a political statement which I will never abandon," Col. Qadhafi told cadets.

He said he would even take a copy of the message to Mr. Gorbachev. "I am prepared at any time to take it to Gorbachev to read it," the official JANA news

agency quoted him as saying.

The Libyan leader told the cadets that he believed the coup would have been a blow for "imperialism," his usual label for the United States.

"We were happy (to think) that the Soviet Union will emerge again as a deterrent force against imperialism."

"How could we not support it (the coup)?" JANA quoted Col. Qadhafi as saying.

Col. Qadhafi said his message to Gennady Yanayev, head of the emergency committee, which seized power in Moscow last month, praised the "strategic friendship" which existed between Libya and the Soviet Union before Mr. Gorbachev came to power in 1985.

Mr. Gorbachev, said Col. Qadhafi, could keep the friendship; he offered: "He is welcome to keep it if he wishes, but if he does not want to keep it, he is free to do so."

He said he thought Mr. Gorbachev to be kind and considered

him a friend but the Soviet leader had betrayed Arab causes. He had also endorsed the post-Gulf war humiliation of Iraq, allowed Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel, let the United States become the sole global superpower and abandoned his friends.

Col. Qadhafi told the cadets that Mr. Gorbachev's policies had done what Washington could never have achieved — defeated the Soviet army and imposed terms of surrender.

"If I meet Gorbachev, I will tell him, you have inflicted defeat on the Soviet army without even having gone to war."

Libya backed Moscow's hard-line anti-U.S. stance until the cold war thawed. Col. Qadhafi's message to Mr. Yanayev on Aug. 19 said:

"The magnificent work which you carried out today, is very important in order to restore the international prestige of the Soviet Union and the pride of the Soviet citizen which imperialism wished to step upon with its dirty



Muammar Qadhafi

feet.

"We support your action with all our might..."

The Libyan leader said the defeat of the coup in Moscow proved that his theory about the indestructible powers of the masses was right — a theory popularised in his Green Book, a politico-socio work.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Documentary
18:30 Science/Culture
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 Perfected Strangers
20:30 Musicians in Jordan
21:10 Our House
22:00 News in English
22:30 Colombo

PRAYER TIMES

06:46 Sunrise/Fajr
09:05 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:35 Dhuhr
16:11 'Asr
19:45 Maghreb
20:25 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidat Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637783, 683326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Assumption Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and windy with be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, which will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

MIN/AMM. TEMP.

Amman 17/27
Aqaba 23/34
Dowra 15/32
Jordan Valley 23/35

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES

Amman 27, Aqaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 55 per cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Haddad 731267
Dr. Abdul Aziz Tabom 783708
Dr. Majed Abu Saad 881635
Dr. Othman Mustafa 714024
First pharmacy 661922
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Azzaza pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 626672
Al Sabun pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 640945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Hasan Othman ()
Al Sharaf pharmacy (273825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Farah Aqrabi ()
Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111.
Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 751221
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630221
Hotel Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 891467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Registries 661101
Abdullah Telephone Repair 773111
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 680100
Water Authority 815615
Jordan Electricity Authority 636381
Electric Power 06-53200
Company 06-53200
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644381/6
Abdell Maternity, J. Amn. 624412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shamsi Hospital 689131
Amal Hospital 843845
Al-Musah Hospital 687227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7
Jalila, Al-Mubajjed 771013
Army, Marja 891617/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602405/0
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)643323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)60560
Rin Sun Hospital (09)68732
Al Hikm Modern Hospital (09)60990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)72555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72225
Bin Al Nafes Hospital (02)47100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (09)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)322055, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:20 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:45 Moscow (RJ)
10:15 Dubai (RJ)
10:30 Athens (RJ)
10:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:50 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:45 Montreal (RJ)
13:30 London (RJ)
17:00 New York (RJ)
18:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:15 Beirut (RJ)

Other Carriers (Terminal 2)

12:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Moscow (SV)
14:00 Khartoum (SU)
15:15 Athens (CY)
16:15 Amsterdam (KL)
16:30 Beirut (ME)
16:45 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Beirut (RJ)
08:15 Athens (RJ)
11:15 Brussels, London (RJ)
11:25 Belgrade (RJ)
12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00 Trip

CBJ defers taking decision on sale of BCCI branches

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Monday deferred taking any decision on allowing the sale of the branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) pending further legal procedures.

A CBJ announcement, issued at the end of a board meeting called to discuss the issue, said that the postponement was decided to allow for the finalisation of all legal procedures which would allow the central bank to take the appropriate decision with regard to the BCCI branches.

The CBJ has received several bids from Jordanian financial institutions to purchase the BCCI branches. These are the Jordan Arab Banking Corporation, the Union Bank and the Business Bank.

Last month, the CBJ expressed hope that a final decision on selling the BCCI branches would be taken in the first week of September and invited interested institutions to submit their offers for the transaction.

A decision was taken last month allowing interested banks to study the auditors' report about the BCCI before deciding to buy.

The CBJ's desire to sell the three branches of the BCCI in Jordan came in a reaffirmation of the government's decision not to order the liquidation of the BCCI operations in Jordan but to sell the branches to interested banks.

The BCCI, founded in Pakistan in 1972 and with operations in more than 70 countries, was alleged to have been tied to drug barons, terrorists, arms dealers and intelligence agencies and to have robbed depositors of billions of dollars.

Ministry of Education adopts decisions on tawjihi exams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education Monday adopted a number of decisions related to the tawjihi examinations for the current 1991-92 scholastic year allowing more time for the students during the examinations sessions and adjusting the level of marks for a number of subjects.

A statement said that the education committee at the ministry, chaired by Minister of Education Eid Dahiyat, had decided that more time would be allowed for the English and Arab subjects in the literary stream, for the English and Physics subjects in the scientific stream and for Arabic in the agricultural, industrial, hotel management and nursing streams.

Furthermore, the committee has decided that the lowest accepted mark in English, in the literary stream, be further lowered and the lowest mark in Arab history be raised a little. But no figures were given by the committee.

The committee said that the decision was taken following due consideration of the results of the tawjihi examination in the past scholastic year and in light of reports submitted by various concerned bodies about that examination.

The committee has decided that examination committees would have to give due consideration to these amendments when setting tawjihi examinations from now on.

The final results of the tawjihi examinations for the past year, announced by Dr. Dahiyat on July 19, showed that 51.9 per cent of a total number of 62,861 students passed the examinations.

Complaints were made in the papers and on Jordan television about the difficult sets of questions and the insufficient time allowed for a number of the subjects given to the students.

Iraqi official appeals to world community to lift embargo

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraq is currently passing through a very critical stage unprecedented in history, and its people are exposed to untold sufferings and starvation coupled with numerous diseases, according to Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly Saadi Mahdi Saleh.

The Iraqi people are facing continued aggression and the embargo is depriving them of basic food supplies and medicine; as a result, a number of dangerous diseases are spreading in all areas, said Mr. Saleh in a message to Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiat.

"If the embargo continues, the Iraqi people will face tragedies of major consequences, with the expected death of hundreds of innocent civilians," said Mr. Saleh in the message, copies of which were sent to speakers of world parliaments.

Mr. Saleh appealed to the world community to lift the embargo since Iraq has implemented all U.N. Security Council resolutions related to the Gulf crisis.

He said that the council has no more justification for maintaining the embargo on Iraq, whose children and elderly are the main victims.

2 children found dead

ZARQA (J.T.) — Two crimes were reported to have been committed in the Zarqa Governorate and the victims were a 10-year-old boy and a 15-year-old girl.

A police department source in Zarqa said the body of the boy, identified only as M.A.M.W., was found in an abandoned home. He was murdered when a plastic bag was wrapped around his face, the source said.

According to the prosecutor general, the parents of the dead child had reported his disappearance 48 hours after searching for him in vain.

He said the murderer must have lured the child away from his home at the Ghweirah District before killing him in Al Hussein District, throwing his body in the abandoned home. He said that investigations were continuing.

In the other murder case, a 15-year-old girl identified only as L.A.F.A., also from Zarqa City, was found murdered. The murderer is her own brother who told the police that he killed his sister because of her bad conduct. He said that he tied a rope around her neck and strangled the girl.



MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE OPENS: The first Jordanian Mathematics Conference opened at the University of Jordan Monday and the participants are set to review 34 research papers. The opening session of the three-day conference was addressed by Dr. Mohammad Hamdan, (centre) who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Dr. Mohammad Al Magdidi, the university vice-president, also addressed the opening session underlining the important topics for discussion and calling for interaction among the participants to find practicable resolutions. According to Dr. Qasem Zoubi, who chaired a committee that prepared for the conference, the participants will discuss the establishment of a Jordanian mathematics society in addition to reviewing the research papers. Dr. Zoubi said that the University of Jordan had prepared for the conference in cooperation with the other three government universities in Jordan: Muta University, Yarmouk University and the Jordan University for Science and Technology.

Amman Financial Market to implement new stock trading regulations

By Ziyad Al Shilleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Financial Market (AFM) will next week implement new regulations related to dealings with shareholding companies in terms of their operations, profits and the number of shares traded in the market, according to an announcement by Ibrahim Bilbeisi, the market's director general.

As of the coming week, the AFM will announce the suspension of trading in shares by companies found to be violating regulations and will also declare the financial position of various companies and their activities as well as their classification to help investors make decisions on their trading in shares, Mr. Bilbeisi said.

But perhaps the most important information required by the investors which the AFM will declare is that which throws light on the companies' capital, profits, rights of shareholders and companies' creditability, he said.

Mr. Bilbeisi said that companies which violate the regulations would risk having their shares suspended from trading. These regulations, Mr. Bilbeisi added, will help investors and traders in shares to decide on investment areas.

The AFM Monday announced that JD 14,333,397 worth of shares were traded in August compared to JD 8,791,565 worth of shares in August of 1990, registering an increase of 61.8 per cent.

Shares traded in the past month, according to an AFM statement, amounted to JD 7,910,528 compared to JD 3,676,753 in August of 1990. The statement noted that shares worth JD 8,128,816 million were traded in the industrial sector, which had the lion's share, accounting for more than 57 per cent of the shares, followed by banks and financial institutions, which accounted for 27.8 per cent of the total shares.

Deadline extended for offer of exemption from draft

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait have six more months to pay the sum of \$6,000 if they do not wish to do military service in the Kingdom, while those living elsewhere have only three months to do so, according to a government decision.

Expatriates not living in Kuwait and delaying payment beyond the three-month period will have to pay a fine of \$500 for every extra month for another period of three months, ending by Feb. 29, 1992, according to a statement by the Council of Ministers.

The decision was an extension to the original government announcement allowing Jordanians to make payment in lieu of doing military service. The last deadline ended on Aug. 31.

So far, the Treasury is believed to have collected nearly JD45 million in foreign currency from expatriates and their sons through the exemption of military service arrangement which went into force in Aug. 1990.

Normal exemption from the two-year military service is granted to the chronically ill and the only son in the family.

According to the government order, unless the \$6,000 fee is paid, every male, regardless of the period of absence from the country, has to serve the term before reaching the age of 37.



ALL SMILES, newly-wed Jordan Times friend and former staff member Saad Hattar with his wife Safa Mazahreh pose for the camera at the church where the two tied the knot last Friday in the presence of family and friends. The happy couple are now enjoying their honeymoon on the sunny beaches of Rhodes Island in the Mediterranean. Saad, who is now a reporter for the Agence France Presse in Amman, and Safa, who is an agricultural engineer, will be reporting back to work on Sept. 10. Just before his departure, Saad told the Jordan Times that it was the best wedding he had ever had. We at the Jordan Times share his view and wish him and his wife a very happy life and hope that it will be his best and last wedding.

Housing shortage for students in Irbid frustrates administration

By Nidal M. Ibrahim and Aida Tawil
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — The massive influx of returning expatriates from the Gulf states and the expansion of classes at Yarmouk University there and at the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) of accommodations, leaving many to wonder how they will attend school in the new academic year due to begin Sept. 16.

The two buildings normally used to house the students are being transformed into classrooms for new courses that are being introduced at Yarmouk University, said Dr. Eidh Mutlaq, director of student services. The two buildings, along with other housing, in the past were used to accommodate about 2,000 students from the two universities, she said.

"Many specialisations have been introduced and there are no buildings to house new schools," Dr. Mutlaq said.

The use of the buildings to house some classrooms will leave between 200 to 300 female students from the JUST without accommodations, said Dr. Kamel Ajlouni, president of JUST. The female students, most of whom live outside the

area, have normally been accommodated at nearby Yarmouk University, Dr. Ajlouni said.

The combined student population of the two universities is about 18,000, Dr. Mutlaq said. Of that number, a big percentage is from the Irbid district; they reside with their families nearby, she said.

Because of the new space restrictions, Yarmouk University has decided to give priority to student applications for housing, Dr. Mutlaq said. New students from the West Bank, other countries and outside Irbid district, in that order, will be given priority for the available housing, she said.

The plan will allow Yarmouk University officials to accommodate 95 per cent of their female students, Dr. Mutlaq said. She stressed that the students currently in the two buildings will not be displaced. Instead, the university will wait for them to leave and will not place any new students in the buildings.

New students will be placed in buildings in the area where the university is renting apartments at a cost of JD 25 to JD 30. "It's very cheap," Dr. Mutlaq said. "It's minimal. This figure includes ... a furnished room, water, electricity, heat-

ing, cleaning and supervision." But while Yarmouk University seems to have solved its housing problems, the conversion of the two buildings has seriously hampered JUST's ability to help its boarding students.

An angry Ajlouni repeatedly said he had tried to find a solution to the problem and railed against the local press for continually covering the issue without offering solutions.

"I don't know (what to do)," he said. "If you can find houses in Amman or Irbid I will house them."

"You try to help your students but you can't find housing in Irbid," he said.

Dr. Ajlouni said his options were limited because of a tight budget, soaring rental costs as a result of increased demand and competition for the available housing.

"Talk to the prime minister," Dr. Ajlouni told a reporter, again making the point that his options were limited. "It is the government which allocates the money, not the university."

Dr. Ajlouni said he understood that the government also was limited in its options. "How can I ask the government to give me money when

they don't have the money?" he asked.

"What is important? A student living in a room or a whole family living in that same room?" he asked. "I feel silly talking about (the students' housing problem with the government)."

"I think we should give priority to these people who are becoming homeless," Dr. Ajlouni said.

Still, while the problem exists, the university's role has been misrepresented, he said. JUST has never offered housing to male students and there are only three known cases of male students seeking university help in finding accommodations.

Furthermore, most of the girls who attend the university are from the Irbid area and reside at home. It is only between 200 to 300 students that have encountered difficulties as a result of the housing shortage, Dr. Ajlouni said.

Yarmouk University, busy coping with the problem of housing its own students, will try to help JUST's students, Dr. Mutlaq said. "This depends on our capacity," she said. "We will cooperate in the limits of our capacity ... let's say accommodation capacity," Dr. Mutlaq said.

Upper House to review laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament holds a session Tuesday to study a decision taken by the Lower House approving the formation of a State Security Court.

The session, which will be attended by Prime Minister Taher Masi and Cabinet members, will also review a number of draft laws and a report by the House's Financial Committee on amendments to the Income Tax Law.

The Senate will also discuss and approve a new draft law on the Higher Court of Justice, which was approved by the Lower House Sunday.

The Lower House will hold a session on Tuesday afternoon to discuss, among other things, a draft law on press and publication, the Zarqa University law and to refer them to the House's special committees.

Organisations to grant farmers loans for income-generating projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the newly created Development and Employment Fund (DEF) will cooperate in providing soft loans to local farmers enabling them to carry out income-generating projects, according to an agreement signed by the two sides Monday.

As an initial step, the ACC will channel funds to be given as loans to the farmers to the EDF which, in turn, will transfer the loans to farmers who need them to begin their projects, the statement said.

The first instalment to be sent to the EDF will be JD 25,000, according to Dr. Abdul Ilah Abu Ayyash, the fund's general director.

Besides giving the loans to the farmers, the fund will undertake the process of collecting the instalments when the farmers start paying back their dues, Dr. Abu Ayyash said.

Dr. Abu Ayyash said that loans

would be given to able-bodied members of poor families without any source of income provided that they personally undertake the implementation of the projects. He said that families whose monthly income is less than JD 120 are considered poor and are, therefore, eligible for the loans.

The loans are to be given by the ACC solely for agricultural projects, benefiting small farmers, including unemployed agricultural engineers, said Dr. Abu Ayyash.

In order to benefit the largest number of small farmers, Dr. Abu Ayyash said that the ceiling for such loans should be JD 6,000 and the borrowers should provide guarantees that they would pay back the loans and the interest on them.

According to the agreement, the following income-generating projects could be considered for

loans: raising sheep and cattle, building hangars for farms, poultry farms, growing vegetables and medicinal herbs under plastic cover and other projects with quick returns that would augment the income of poor families.

The fund earlier announced that it had allocated JD 250,000 to be given in loans to artisans and craftsmen and said arrangements for granting the loans were being worked out with the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) which provides training courses in different trades.

Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi had said that the loans would be given to graduates of VTC centres and to heads of needy families to help them start a business of their own.

According to Mr. Dughmi, the Ministry of Labour will also seek employment for all VTC graduates in a bid to reduce unemployment in Jordan.

CAEU meeting to discuss Arab integration, administrative issues

AMMAN (Petra) — The question of moving the head offices of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) from Amman to Cairo will be on the agenda of an Arab League meeting which is due to open in the Egyptian capital Tuesday, according to Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb.

The minister, who left for Cairo Monday to head Jordan's delegation to the Arab League meeting, said that the two-day perley would also discuss financial and administrative matters related to CAEU's functions.

Also on the agenda of the two-day meeting are the questions of Arab economic integration, the united Europe and the effect of the European common market on inter-Arab economic relations, according to the minister.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the petrochemical industries in the Arab World and their role in socio-economic development as well as tourism in Arab countries and means of promoting the Arab tourism industry would also be discussed.

Apart from the two-day Arab League meeting, Mr. Abul

Ragheb will take part in the Joint Egyptian-Jordanian Investment and Development (Holding) Company meeting which is due to convene in Cairo Thursday. The minister said he would hold talks with Egyptian Minister of Foreign Trade and Economy Yusef Mustafa for promoting bilateral trade.

Mr. Abul Ragheb is accompanied on the Cairo visit by a delegation of representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Tourism and the Central Bank of Jordan.

Meanwhile, Mr. Abul Ragheb has announced that a Jordanian economic delegation will visit Tehran on September 26, for talks, at the Iranian Ministry of Commerce, on the implementation of a letter of understanding signed by Jordan and Iran in Tehran last week.

The Council of Ministers Saturday evening approved the letter which was signed by Mr. Abul Ragheb during his visit to Iran last week.

The letter was also signed by Iranian Minister of Commerce Abdul Hussein Vahaji following several days of talks with Mr. Abul Ragheb. The letter expresses

the two sides' determination to promote trade and economic ties and paves the ground for visits by official economic and trade delegations to Tehran and Amman to explore further cooperation.

The letter is designed to promote trade, and provide for the organisation of trade fairs and launching cooperation between the free zones in the two countries.

The letter calls for the two countries to cooperate in contracting and construction operations and for the creation of a joint committee, to convene periodically in Amman and Tehran, to follow up the implementation of bilateral agreements.

Banks in the two countries will adopt measures to facilitate payment and promote the flow of goods while commercial centres for the two countries will be established in their capitals to promote the sale of national products.

According to the letter of understanding, the two sides also agree on setting up joint companies in construction and consultancy, production or distribution of commodities and to hold talks aimed at promoting land, sea and air transport between them.

Iran and Jordan will give each other preferential trade treatment and will hold an investment seminar grouping industrialists and businessmen from the two countries during the Tehran international fair to be held in October, in accordance with the letter of understanding.

According to Mr. Abul Ragheb, Jordan would be displaying national products at the Tehran fair.

The minister said earlier Iran had agreed to buy 250,000 tonnes of fertilisers in 1991 in a \$65 million deal. He said talks were under way to sell a similar amount of phosphate in a deal he hoped would be concluded soon.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Abul Rubb at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Salim Jamil Al Nouri at Alla Art Gallery.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by Al Jool Al Jadid folk troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation presents Baghdad Chamber Ensemble

In concert Tuesday, September 10, 1991, at 8 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Centre

Works by - Schubert, Handel, Tchaikovsky and others
Old and modern Iraqi manufactured music instruments will be exhibited before and during the intermission of the concert.

Tickets for JD 5 each are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, tel: 669026
- Babish, tel: 661322
- Marriott Hotel, tel: 660100
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel: 667620

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN

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NURSERY CLASS We are also pleased to announce a nursery class for 3-4 years olds. Registrations now being taken. School office open daily from September 1st.

Address: P.O. Box 2002, Khilda, Amman, Telephone: 841070

Jordan Times

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Message worth noting

THERE IS a twin message in the government's decision to free 81 of the members of the "Prophet Mohammad's Army" and to prosecute only those who have been detained on serious charges. The first suggests that Jordan is determined to root out any unlawful activities that may exist in the country no matter under what banner they take place. Those individuals or groups who threaten national security have to understand the folly of their intentions and actions in no uncertain terms. The second message from the government on the other hand is that the decision to end the incarceration of the 81 group is based on the country's long tradition of compassion and reconciliation within the concept of the one Jordanian family that His Majesty the King always prided himself in.

The history of the Kingdom is replete with cases when persons condemned for very serious violations of state security were rehabilitated and reinstated even in high posts. This approach has served the nation well and added a touch of humanism to its national character. Yet, the issue of how the government has handled the entire file of the arrested members of the "Prophet Mohammad's Army" leaves much to be desired. Having detained about a hundred people suspected of threatening national security more than a month ago it was incumbent on the concerned authorities to either press charges against the accused or free them soon after their arrest. Both the national laws as well as relevant international law require the government to detain a suspect or suspects only for a relatively short period of time without bringing charges against them. In the present case, it appears that even those set free presumably for lack of sufficient evidence to incriminate them were held in custody for more than a month and a half without a specific charge. Such record for the administration of criminal justice violates not only the local and international laws but also the spirit of the new democratic era in the country. On the other hand, if as reputed, the freed persons were "guilty" of carrying unlicensed arms, then it would have been wiser and more prudent to prosecute them as well under the relevant sections of the national penal code instead of letting them loose.

These observations should not distract our attention, however, from the central issue related to the total and unequivocal rejection of the notion that in this new phase of democracy there is room for armed bands or factions to roam the political landscape of the country at will. It should be understood by all individuals and groups of whatever orientation or persuasion that the only place for them to assert themselves and make their views known is the political arena. And obviously the time to identify any perspectives or ideology that they may have is during the national election campaigns when the people of Jordan have an ample opportunity to get acquainted with such varied orientations and elect their representatives accordingly.

The criminally charged members suspected of having committed acts of terrorism against Jordanian targets will have plenty of room and opportunity to defend themselves when their cases are heard before the State Security Court. This time around, the court's decisions are subject to appeal, thanks to the new reforms that have been introduced in our legal system lately. All the necessary legal safeguards as spelled out by local and international standards will be accorded the accused. This is more than they had bargained for when they carried out their criminal acts.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Monday attacked the U.S. and other Western nations for their lies about an alleged Iraqi invasion of the Kuwaiti Bubiyan island in the Gulf and said that these nations were quick to condemn the alleged invasion without making certain that such attack had actually taken place. The paper said that Washington, Paris and London were quick to bring forth a U.N. Security Council threat to Iraq based on the fabricated reports and allegations from the Kuwaiti government. Even certain Arab countries allied with the West joined the chorus and began issuing accusations and threats against Baghdad without due consideration of the false reports, the paper noted. The propaganda campaign launched against Iraq, the paper noted, is clearly a pretext to justify the continued embargo on the Arab country with total disregard to the lives of 18 million people who face hunger, disease and deprivation. Indeed, Washington is leading the Western nations' campaign of terror against other countries of the world at a time when they claim that they are concerned over the people of the Soviet republics who are facing food shortages, the paper added. The Western nations realise that in the light of the presence of foreign forces in Kuwait and the Gulf countries and owing to the present siege imposed on Iraq, no Iraqi forces would contemplate such invasion of an isolated island in the Gulf, the paper continued. Yet, the Western media started a campaign against Iraq to justify the continued tragedy of the Iraqi people who continue to face hardships and diseases. The paper said that the new world order advocated by the United States is taking shape with very horrible proportions that can only pave the ground for the rebirth of an imperialist and colonialist era.

Al Dastour daily Monday said that Israel was approaching the newly independent Soviet republics in a bid to ensure continued Soviet Jewish emigration. The paper said that the Islamic republics, which broke away from the Soviet Union, should be approached by the Arab and Islamic countries to forestall any Israeli move in this direction. The paper noted that the Israelis backed by Western countries are now wooing the new republics to win their favour and ensure the continued flow of Jews into occupied Palestine, but the Arab and Islamic countries are not doing anything and just watching the developments without any move to safeguard Arab and Islamic interests. The paper noted that Israel is even trying to woo the Islamic nations in order to guarantee continued immigration and is being helped by the Western Europeans who have already recognised the new republics.

The View from Fourth Circle

Falafel for lunch, or eternal wards of history?

By Rami G. Khouri

THE next several months — perhaps only weeks — may determine the future course of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the broader Middle East situation for many years to come. The predominant view of Arab governments is that we should seize the current opportunity to attend the peace conference to be cosponsored by the USA and the USSR, despite obvious imbalances between the strength of the Israelis and the Arabs. The predominant view of Arab people is that a peace conference is nothing more than an American hoax and an Israeli trap — an opportunity for the Arabs to surrender gracefully and live forever under indirect Israeli-American tutelage. The Palestinians have the most to lose and nothing to gain but humiliating autonomy, according to the latter view, and they should have nothing to do with current peace-making efforts.

I disagree, and I must confess and come clean: this is one of the few times in my adult life when I agree with Arab governments, and disagree with the predominant grassroots Arab sentiment. As a Palestinian myself, I feel this is a potentially historic moment when the Palestinians must seize the opportunity at hand — no matter how awkward, imbalanced or humiliating it may appear at first sight. We should not only enter into peace talks, but should do so enthusiastically and energetically, precisely because this is the moment to turn weakness into strength, and to help mold history instead of remaining its victims. Here are some reasons why:

1. The strength of the Palestinian/Arab case has always been moral, historical, human, legal and political, while the strength of the Israeli side has always been in the military sphere — though Israel has also benefited from some judicious duplicity and crass, self-serving expediency by Her Britannic Majesty's Government and Purveyors of Imperial Greed (in the early years of this century), and subsequently from the junk sale of electoral souls that masquerades as the United States Congress and political leadership (in the recent years of this century). Never mind. The world is an imperfect place, inhabited by weak and often trashy people, frequently even ruled by them.

The best way to overcome the failures of the past — the stench of rotten politics and cheap politicians — is to manoeuvre ourselves into a situation in which Arab-Israeli terms of reference are not the military balance on the ground in the Holy Land or the next election in New Jersey, but rather U.N. resolutions, international law and the power of global consensus and morality. In these fields, the Palestinians/Arabs have a powerful, probably an overwhelming, case to argue.

2. We will never be able to draw on our strengths if we allow ourselves to be caught off balance by outrageous demands by the Israelis that are usually supported by Washington. The argument about the make-up of the Palestinian delegation is a case in point. I love Jerusalem as much as the next Palestinian, Arab or Semite, but I would not allow its procedural symbolism to prevent the convening of a peace conference. I would accept to send to the peace talks a Palestinian negotiator who once lived next an old lady in Ramallah whose daughter was once briefly engaged to a shepherd from Hebron whose goats once accidentally wandered into the fields of a farmer from Jericho whose mother once had a falafel lunch in Jerusalem on her way to attend boarding school in Haifa.

Who sits at the table will not determine the fate of Jerusalem any more than will the colour of the upholstery covering the negotiating seats. The Arab identity of east Jerusalem is indelibly etched into our hearts. Jerusalem resides in the flesh of every Arab, Muslim and man and woman of morality, of whatever religion. It cannot be denied simply on the basis of who sits at a negotiating table. To attend a peace conference with Palestinian representatives from other parts of Palestine is not to surrender our claim to Jerusalem, our rights in Palestine, or our love for our Arab Nation and patrimony. Those who make this argument are allowing themselves to be used by Israel and its Western backers.

The Israelis — serious historians that they are — are trying to play on our emotional weaknesses and our exaggerated sense of shame and honour. They know we are likely to make a last bitter stand on the Jerusalem issue; and they know this may cause the whole peace conference to collapse — which is very much to their liking. The last thing the Israelis want is to attend a peace

conference where virtually the whole world will support the Palestinian right of self-determination and will insist on the Israeli obligation to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967. The Palestinians/Arabs should attend the conference on the best possible terms available today, and make a public declaration of our claims on Israel and our rights in Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine. The negotiators chosen by the Palestinians and the PLO will be clearly identified as such, and will make it clear that they engage in peace on the basis of rejecting Israel's claims to all of Jerusalem. We have several U.N. Security Council resolutions to this effect, unanimously approved by all the permanent members. What more do we need — Barbara Bush holding our hand? What are we afraid of? Why do we hesitate?

3. Our claims and rights are substantial, and should be developed as the centrepiece of the negotiations. We have scores of Security Council and General Assembly resolutions negating Israel's annexations of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and its actions to change the character of the occupied territories, and affirming the Palestinians' right of self-determination, statehood, and compensation or return for the Palestinian refugees. This is the moment to sit at a table and to bring before the court of world public opinion our claim to have international legal and moral standards applied to us in the same manner as they are applied elsewhere in the world, such as Kuwait. Israel claims its legitimacy on the basis of U.N. General Assembly Resolution 181 — but that resolution also calls for an Arab Palestinian state, and it was voted for by the USA in 1947. Clearly, the Israelis seek to avoid a peace conference based on U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy. We should be working for such a conference.

The whole world is engaged in one of the most exciting transnational human/political dynamics in recent centuries, characterised by a wholesale shift towards democracy, pluralism, human rights, and regional integration. The moral and legal pivot of this global movement is the United Nations and its resolutions. We have dozens of resolutions affirming our rights. This is the moment for the Palestinians and the Arabs to join and to ride on the back of the political mainstream of the world, and to draw on the considerable goodwill around the world in order to support the Palestinians and isolate the Israelis.

4. The long-term dynamics of the region are irrefutable. Today there are 215 million Arabs and some four million Israelis. In several decades, there will be 400 million Arabs and nearly six million Israelis, and after a century the ratios will continue to grow proportionately. One day — in the intermediate future, when the Arabs act intelligently and honourably — the Israelis will have to come to the Arabs and beg us for autonomy. In the long run, the Israelis cannot dominate the region any more than did the Crusaders, the European colonialists or any of the other foreign occupiers who coveted our ancient and holy land. But the long run is an easy argument, proffered by the weak and the disheartened. It allows us to abdicate our responsibility to the current generations of Palestinians and Arabs who have suffered so much, and simply to throw our fate to the future. This is political irresponsibility and moral weakness of the highest order.

If we rely on history and leave the Palestine issue for future generations to resolve, the question then becomes: how much more turmoil and pain will the region have to endure? Will the Middle East and its people continue to suffer ever more severe cycles of personal humiliation, mass despair, social turbulence, political violence, human agony, economic regression and national disintegration before they finally explode in a conflagration so massive and violent that it physically destroys or politically obliterates the Israelis — in a replay of the Crusader adventure? Or, can the region and its people attain national security, stability and political rights through a peaceful process in which international legitimacy is implemented to the satisfaction of all?

5. I am sure that we shall triumph in the end, but the end may not come before many decades or centuries of needless human suffering. The Palestinian cause is real, our cause strong, our heritage intact, our hopes alive, our memories powerful, and our identity vibrant. We are unlikely to suffer the fate of the American Indians, the Kurds, the Armenians, the aborigines, or

others who were trampled by imperial greed and lost out on their national rights and dignity. But then, we may. If we continue to say "no" to the international consensus, and to run against the tide of a majority of people around the world who genuinely support us — and if we do this primarily for reasons of pride and diplomatic cold feet — we are likely simply to wallow in our own righteousness and anger. In the meantime, millions of Palestinians continue to suffer a daily life of uncertainty, fear, discrimination and vengeance by Israelis and even some ruling Arab elites who have quickly learned London's and Washington's lessons of mercantile greed, human frailty and the sick thrill of racist violence.

We have nothing to fear from a peace conference based on U.N. resolutions and the principle of exchanging land for peace. We should go into the conference with confidence and certitude, demanding nothing less than full implementation of international legitimacy as enshrined in U.N. resolutions. Timing, transitions, personalities and other issues are negotiable, because they are essentially procedural rather than substantive. The essence of peace is not negotiable: Palestine is an Arab land, and there must be an Arab Palestine.

An Arab Palestinian will come into being if politically legitimate Palestinians and other Arabs participate actively in a peace process that may achieve our desired objectives. Rejecting to participate in negotiations because the current military balance is against us, or because of some procedural nicety that rubs against our sense of emotional decorum or national honour, is counter-productive. We will simply be left behind as uncared for wards of history, selling our embroidery and ceramics in camps that attract tourists, academics and eternal fact-finding missions. Many books will be written about us, and some people will build museums in our memory.

We have already agreed to partition Palestine, to name non-PLO negotiators in the first stage of talks, to enter into some sort of confederal arrangement with Jordan, and to accept the existence of Israel, the key resolutions 242 and 338, a phased Israeli withdrawal, and probably a demilitarised Palestine. We declared a state of Palestine. We have waged a heroic intifada for nearly four years. Do these things mean nothing? Are they only for show, or to feel good? What are waiting for? The next logical step in the historical trend we have followed since 1973 is to sit with the Israelis and hammer out an honourable peace, based on U.N. resolutions. If the proposed conference is based on 242/338, land-for-peace, and the non-admissibility of the acquisitions of land by force, we should be forcing the pace of negotiations and pressuring the Israelis to keep up with us, rather than allowing them to establish the ground rules. When the terms of reference switch from Israeli military strength to the Arabs' legitimate moral and political claims and the pertinent U.N. resolutions, the likelihood is that Israel will become increasingly isolated. It will have to submit to increasing international pressure to withdraw from the occupied territories and coexist with some sort of Palestinian state.

6. If the conference fails or never takes place, both of which are likely possibilities, the Middle East region simply continues on its tortured course, until the pressures and disparities get so immense that we are all engulfed by a maelstrom of rage and destruction. Arab lands would then be grabbed by regional powers, such as Iran, Turkey and Israel, as the 20th Century Arab order reaches its low point and the physical patrimony of contemporary Arabism finally crumbles under the weight of its own incoherence, incompetence, despotism and greed. A new generation of leaders would then take over the region — probably extremist secular or religious demagogues who would simply bring on further catastrophe, but perhaps young democrats who would have learned from the destruction that only through democratic expression of popular will can the Arab World snap out of its cycle of regression and aspire to achieve its potential. In either case, we would have lost nothing by actively participating in a peace conference. We would have gained the satisfaction of showing the Israelis to be intransigent and predatory — if the conference fails — and if the conference succeeds, we would have gained the indescribable pleasure of going to Jerusalem, and enjoying a falafel lunch in freedom.

Children in the intifada: the psychological impact

By Graham Usher

OF all international conflicts, the intifada is perhaps most widely seen as involving children. Images on our TV screens clothe the various meanings of the uprising on the child's small shoulders so that, in the West, the very word intifada conjures up figures of youth — swarthy in kufiyas, fleeing under tear gas, throwing stones. And while media stereotypes rarely tell the whole truth, here, at least, they allude to it. Most commentators agree that the central actors in the struggle against Israeli occupation have been Palestinian children. They are also, overwhelmingly, its victims.

According to a report published in May 1990 by the Swedish Save the Children Organisation, 159 Palestinian children were killed and 63,000 suffered intifada-related injuries between December 1987 and December 1989. Of the fatalities, 106 died from gunshot wounds and 39 from exposure to tear gas. Of the injuries, 29,000 were from army beatings alone. In all cases, the report accuses the Israeli military of "unjustified, unreasonably, excessive and unlawful use of lethal force against defenceless Palestinian children."

But while the report is salutary in reminding us that Israel's "lethal force" is "fundamentally destructive of children's lives," it cannot recover the psychological hurt suffered by Palestinian children. To understand this we must turn to a remarkable series of studies by Palestinian psychologists.

The hidden intifada

Asia Habash, co-director of the Early Childhood Resource Centre in Jerusalem, describes a side of the Palestinian child's life far removed from the stereotype of the stone-throw-

ing shabab (youths). "There is the intifada and the hidden intifada... Sometimes you will see the Palestinian youth with the kufiya round his face — the way he is portrayed in the Western media... This distorts what the intifada is about. They are not portraying the fear felt by the youth..."

The uprising has transformed the lives of all Palestinian children. But the psychological impact of this is double-edged. Dr. Iyad Sarraj, a psychiatrist working in the Gaza Strip, lists disorders amongst children that are now "almost epidemic". Phobias, difficulties of concentration, sleeplessness, refusal to eat, attempted suicides; even hysterical convulsions — a child will suddenly become paralysed or unable to see. You don't see that in the West anymore. All these things are about anxiety and fear.

Sarraj finds the cause of the distress in the excessive levels of military violence to which children are exposed. Thus different kinds of trauma are related to different forms of collective punishment. One study of Gaza families subjected to repeated curfew found that children were prone to be "withdrawn, developing agoraphobic symptoms when curfew is lifted."

But children are not just victims of military violence; they are often made its accomplices. The most brutal instance of this is the punishment of humiliation, where children are forced by the army to witness the gratuitous abuse of other family members. This practice has become so widespread throughout the occupied territories that Palestinians are loathe to believe that it is due to a few "rogue" soldiers. Its routinised, they say, amounts to a deliberate policy in which fundamental family relations are attacked as a way of bringing about political docility. James Garbarino —

who treated victims of military humiliation in Argentina — writes of its effect on children: "The intent is usually to demoralise and intimidate parents as a way to neutralise them politically, but one consequence is to undermine the child's mental health."

Dr. Sarraj's own work with Palestinian children bears out Mr. Garbarino's analysis. When "young children witness their parents being beaten in front of their eyes, their main image of security is shattered". The child's psychological response to this sudden, violent vulnerability is a behavioural pendulum that swings wildly between defiance and fear. Dr. Sarraj tells of a six-year-old who, for three months, refused to leave his home. "He told me he had been with his father one day when soldiers stopped him and beat him up... The boy had realised that his father could no longer protect him."

Yet — as Mr. Garbarino asserts — equally common reactions to humiliation are "shame, rage and political resolve". Dr. Sarraj sees these emotions in the passionate identification the shabab make with the national struggle. "Because they see their parents humiliated, their anger becomes directed against the forces of occupation rather than their family." The psychological corollary here is not of insecurity manifested as phobia, but of fearlessness.

Strategies of coping

There are 120 kindergartens in the occupied territories. These have been set up, funded and sustained by Palestinian women. According to Asia Habash, they have mainly "been responsible for childcare and early education."

It is from the matrices of these centres — and the women's committees that run them — that an indigenous Palestinian psychology has

evolved. For it is to them the Palestinian mother turn when faced with the psychological detritus of their children. And it is these mothers — the "strategies of coping" they have developed — the Palestinian psychologists look to in their search for an authentic therapy. The most studied of these strategies has been "mediation." Mr. Garbarino describes its psychological bases: "The wellbeing of young children in a society depends on how well that society is doing in sustaining the basic infrastructure of family life... If parents (particularly mothers in most cases) can sustain a strong attachment to their children, can maintain a positive sense of self, and can have access to rudimentary shelter, food and medical care, then children will 'manage'."

Since the intifada began, teams of women have gone out to camps and villages to ensure that mediation becomes an owned, communal practice. For Dr. Sarraj the purpose has been to "help mothers understand what is happening to their children so that they can cope with their behaviour." But the means have been to utilise existing features of Palestinian culture to show that they, if employed consciously, will mediate a child's stress. Thus a study of Qabatiya village in the West Bank showed how children's ability to cope with war trauma is related to the perceived strength of their mothers. In one household, where family members said 17 tear-gas canisters were dropped from a helicopter, the mother's forthrightness appeared to set an example of fearlessness for her seven children.

Such practices provide not only therapeutic models to be emulated throughout the territories. They also act as prisons wherein a community can perceive the psychological resources latent in themselves via

the recovery of strategies of political resistance inherent in their culture. The strength of the mother in Qabatiya is a coping strategy ingrained by years of Palestinian custom born in opposition to years of occupation. The work of the women's committees has simply been to disinter this culture, brush it clean and give it away to Palestinian women and children as their culture. And the psychotherapy that derives from it is one where the oppressed — through communal practice — develop in themselves a sense of conscious self-determination based on the discovery of their social needs.

Victims of torture

Israel's use of torture against Palestinians is not new. A study published in the Sunday Times in 1977 concluded that "torture of Arab prisoners in Israeli prisons is so widespread... it appears to be sanctioned as deliberate policy". What is new is that with the intifada this "deliberate policy" is being used against ever younger age groups. Dr. Sarraj tells of a boy who, after imprisonment, became uncharacteristically aggressive towards his family. "I got him to express some of the guilt and shame that he had been bottling up. It turned out that he had been tortured. There had been no sexual abuse, but he had repeatedly been threatened with it."

For children, it is not simply the physical experience of torture that is disabling. The psychological threat exuded by torture — the powerlessness it imposes — is even more traumatic. So how can the child torture victim be helped?

According to Dr. Sarraj, "if children have been tortured, one way to make what has happened more bearable is to get them to relate it to the national struggle." This therapeutic use of national identi-

fication is the most significant aspect of Palestinian mental health practice. Nationalism here is not just an ideological position; it is a clinical technique. Dr. Sarraj describes his treatment of child torture victims. "When I am faced with a child who has been tortured, I ask 'why do you think this is happening to you as a Palestinian?' I ask this as a way of moving the victim from an exploration of feelings to a more cognitive understanding of the situation, to get him or her to understand the event politically."

Child torture victims must come to know their traumas not as individual pathologies, but as the product of a specific reality — Israeli occupation and people's resistance to it. Once they comprehend their pain as one thread out of a total national oppression, they may be able to emotionally discharge it. Therapy consists in enabling Palestinian children to project themselves as a people. Then they may tap within themselves a sense of national "community" that transforms the occupying culture into an invigorating, nurturing and healing force. Mental wellbeing, for Dr. Sarraj, is the child in revolt against occupation and aware of itself as such: "You cannot detach the individual experience from the national oppression... And this is so for the victim of torture. Once he has understood the national context of this suffering, it is up to the individual to decide his role. Some will plant tomatoes; others will work in clinics; others will write on walls; and children will confront soldiers with slings and stones. All of these acts assert an individual's identity and demonstrate self control and responsibility, but they are all determined by the national struggle. The two are inseparable." — Middle East International, London.

Israel says Baker due in Mideast

(Continued from Page 1)

vide assurances of U.S. support on key issues in advance of attending a peace conference. Palestinians want him to reaffirm a U.S. commitment to a settlement based on trading land for peace, which Israel opposed.

Mr. Baker, who has secured a Soviet role as co-sponsor of the peace talks, is unlikely to receive conclusive answers from either the Israelis or Palestinians during his next visit.

The Israelis will not commit themselves to attending until they know the nature of Palestinian participation, demanding a major role in determining who speaks for them.

The Palestinians will consult with the PLO in Tunis after meeting Mr. Baker and a final position will have to be approved by the Palestine National Council, a gathering of Palestinian leaders expected to be held in September in Agliss.

A senior PLO official said any delay in holding a Middle East peace conference would be "seriously prejudicial" to achieving peace in the region.

Arab countries would be "the main losers" of any delay, which "would affect the credibility of Washington and bring the region to a situation comparable to that after June 1967," Mr. Mohammed Milhem said in an interview with Tunisian radio.

Israel would be the main beneficiary of a delay in the conference, said Mr. Milhem, head of

the PLO's Occupied Territories Department, in an interview from Amman.

Israel would take advantage of a postponement of the conference to increase its settlements in the occupied territories to create "a new state of affairs rendering the Palestinian people's objectives impossible," Mr. Milhem said.

But he said that "what happened in the Soviet Union should be a catalyst for setting a date for the peace conference." He did not explain what he meant.

The underground leaders of the uprising called Monday for further talks with U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker and condemned threats against Palestinians who met him in the past.

A leaflet by the leadership of the uprising appeared to be a response to a threat issued by the Islamic Jihad group after Mr. Baker's last visit.

Islamic Jihad said in a leaflet on Aug. 4 that Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein "and his negotiators" faced assassination. The others who met Mr. Baker in July were Hassan Ashrawi and Zakariya Al Agha.

The latest leaflet said such threats were "not appropriate" and added: "Despite the differences between the factions regarding the meeting with Baker, the unified national leadership of the uprising still believes that the democratic dialogue is the only way to strengthen (our) unity and condemns these threats."

Kouchner says Garang in control

(Continued from Page 1)

rebels and government forces since the conflict began. Hundreds of thousands more have died from a famine created by the war.

Relief flights

A land-mine explosion destroyed a Red Cross relief plane and injured its five crew members as they took off Monday from a government-controlled airstrip in war-torn southern Sudan, a relief official said.

He said one of the foreign

victims was injured critically.

The man lay near death at the regional capital Wan as the United Nations sought for hours to obtain rebel and government permission to fly the victims to Khartoum for treatment, said Trevor Page, the capital's top U.N. official.

"We hope we get there in time, because he needs blood transfusions," Mr. Page said. "Wan, capital of Bahr Al Ghazal region, is 990 kilometres southwest of Khartoum. It is a government enclave in SPLA-controlled territory."

Gorbachev rallies republic leaders

(Continued from Page 1)

shouts," he said. "We won't deal with any disruptive people."

He was joined on the podium by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, and the two took turns in presiding.

"Let's speak frankly," said Sergei Alexeyev, chairman of the Constitution Oversight Committee. "Our union was not simply on the verge of collapse, but already in a state of collapse. We were in the state similar to that in Yugoslavia."

The congress is still dominated by the Communist Party, which was ejected from the national government and had its assets seized in the wake of last month's failed coup d'état.

In the interim, the country would be run by three councils: a Council of Representatives of People's Deputies, consisting of 20 lawmakers from each participating republic; a Council of Leaders from the Republics; and an inter-republic Economic Council, consisting of republic representatives.

The backing of Mr. Gorbachev and the 10 republic leaders seemed to give the proposal enough momentum to overcome conservative opposition.

As the congress adjourned at midday, hardline lawmaker Viktor Alksnis ran up to a microphone that was turned off.

"This is an attempt at an unconstitutional coup," shouted Mr. Alksnis, a leader of the conservative Soyuz group of deputies, who also urged the lawmakers not to leave.

Another deputy grabbed the powerless microphone and said, "Why should 10 people decide for thousands?"

Noted reformers at the congress agreed.

"It's a very important step if the congress approves it," said former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, speaking to reporters.

Former top Gorbachev adviser Alexander Yakovlev said an interim governing structure is needed because "it's an extraordinary situation."

Reflecting the changes that have swept the Soviet Union since the Aug. 18-21 coup failed, the parliament opened without the customary visage of Vladimir Lenin looking over the delegates. A curtain hanging behind the podium said simply, "Extraordinary Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR."

A delicate balance in Egypt

NOWHERE in the world is the delicate balance between population growth and environmental stability under more pressure than in Egypt. With nearly 100 per cent of that country's people living and working on but 3 per cent of its land, and with a population increase of some one million persons every eight months, there remains little doubt which way the scales are tipping. **Louis Werner**, writing in *People* magazine, provides the first of two reports from the Nile delta.

BECAUSE the River Nile plays such a predominant role in all facets of Egyptian life, environmental problems there are compounded in both complexity and severity the farther one travels downstream. Indeed, as soon as the Nile passes the city of Cairo, whose 12 million residents use the river to carry off whatever cannot be recycled, the broader environmental implications of river pollution become unmistakable. It is not an overstatement to say that whatever a Cairene flushes away today, a Nile delta farmer will drink or irrigate with tomorrow.

The pernicious effect that rapid population growth has on the environment is amplified on the land reclamation ("new land" or "horizontal expansion") projects at the edge of the delta. This is a major cause for alarm, because ever since the raising of the Aswan High Dam, new land development has been a chief government policy. Perhaps no one has a better perspective on this than Dr. Essa Mohammad Sayid Ahmad, general director of the Ministry of Public Works' irrigation improvement projects for the eastern delta.

"Where once you might have had 95 per cent of the entire delta under cultivation, now it has been reduced to less than 85 per cent. Where once you saw watermelon and clover growing, now you see houses, roads, and the public utilities needed for so many more people than there was before," Dr. Essa says. "But the 2.8 million feddans of planned reclamation projects at the delta's edges won't come close to replacing the agricultural productivity lost in its centre."

This interplay between population growth and the need for new land is further explained by Dr. Fahmy Badrawy, director of the Egyptian Family Planning Association. "People move into the new agricultural lands and the new desert cities before the planning process is complete. They have nowhere else to go, and when they do come, they quickly overburden what little has been prepared for their arrival," he answers when asked why the new settlement projects are so difficult to carry out.

"As existing villages grow and new housing gets built on the delta's good clay, only soils of poor farming value are left for agricultural expansion," Dr. Essa explains. "Here we are spending a lot of good money on what is essentially marginal land. And often we can't upgrade the new lands with even basic improve-

ments before we must turn it over to farmers. We often don't even have time for proper feasibility studies."

Another unwanted push onto new lands comes from Egypt's inheritance laws. As land in the delta is subdivided equally among all sons after the father's death, plots become so small that farming there becomes an uneconomic activity, unable to benefit from mechanisation, economies of scale, or farm credit. While the laws officially forbid farm fragmentation under 5 feddans (1 feddan = roughly one acre), in practice the average size of a family holding becomes ever smaller, and now might stand at half a feddan.

With old land prices in the delta reaching nearly £20,000 (\$6,900) per feddan, few small farmers can reconsecrate their holdings. The only alternative is to turn to land reclamation areas, where land can be purchased from the government for only £2500 (\$170) per feddan. Although these plots have inferior soils and lack necessary infrastructure, they do at least offer the hope for future improvements.

The case of an irrigation project serving a nearby land reclamation area in the delta's Sharqiyya Governorate, some two hours by car north of the city of Zagazig, reveals just how misplaced this hope in the future may be. Dr. Essa is the man in charge of the project, which aims to increase the delivery of clean water to 17,500 reclaimed feddans that abut the Salhiyya Desert, between the Nile and the Suez Canal.

Presently this new land scheme is irrigated by one of Egypt's foulest and most fetid wastewater canals, the notorious Bahr Al Baqr, which ignobly serves the dual role of Cairo's household sewer and the northern industrial belt's effluent drain. The long-term clean-up plan, whose completion date is still years away, calls for the Ministry of Housing to upgrade Cairo's sewerage system and the Ministry of Industry to build treatment facilities for factory run-off.

In the meantime, Dr. Essa is saddled with the unenviable job of putting the Bahr Al Baqr to productive downstream use in the reclamation area. To do this, his irrigation engineers must mix its polluted drainwater with fresh water arriving from the tail of the Saidiyya Canal's nearby Bateekh branch. The resulting brew, still quite black and odorous, is then used as the area's sole source of



The polluted drainwater of Bahr Al Baqr canal joins the Saidiyya canal (photo by Walter Armbrust)

irrigation.

The trouble is that, depending on the time of year, there is little or no fresh water to mix with the Bahr Al Baqr. Before the Saidiyya Canal and all its branches are rebuilt and their water delivery efficiencies thereby increased, works currently in progress, nothing much can be done. The current situation meanwhile ensures that any effects of the soils "improvement" project are offset by "unimproved" irrigation water.

The Bahr Al Baqr's pumping station, where heavy machinery constantly breaks down due to the heavy pollutant load, brings the real dimension of the problem into sharp focus. A settling pond at the discharge site is required to calm the phosphate-fed black froth. Ironically, the water delivered by the Saidiyya's branch canal, which could easily have been made potable with primary treatment alone, is instead made permanently unsuitable for household use.

Farmers on the new land to the east of the pump station have no other waste source. Pipes have not yet been laid into the zone and deep well water is much too salty. It is a sad irony that farmers in one of the world's most intensively irrigated regions must buy drinking water at inflated prices from vendors in villages far from home.

The health consequences of irrigating from the Bahr Al Baqr, or eating food grown in the area, are unknown. Rumours of heavy metals in the water are shared by agricultural engineers, but the public health authorities responsible have never collected samples to determine if in fact it poses a risk.

The common wisdom about the water's safety meanwhile comes in the form of black humour. "The Bahr Al Baqr," one farmer said, "is too dirty for the billiard ball to survive, so at least we don't have to fear that." Unfortunately, such small consolation is not a sufficient answer to the environmental questions now being pressed upon Egypt's land reclamation policies.

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No.: 16

Drawing of: Sep. 2, 1991

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. **30834**
Wins JD 25,000

Holder of ticket No. **24929**
Wins JD 6,000

Holder of ticket No. **18361**
Wins JD 3,000

Holder of ticket No. **49708**
Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. **66874**
Wins JD 1,500

Holder of ticket No. **66824**
Wins JD 1,200

Holder of ticket No. **36437**
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. **65012**
Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each wins JD 100
30835 30844 30934 31834 40834
30833 30824 30734 39834 20834

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 600 each wins JD 60
24920 24939 24029 25929 34929
24928 24919 24829 23929 14929

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 300 each wins JD 30
18362 18371 18461 19361 28361
18360 18351 18261 17361 08361

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20
49709 49718 49808 40708 59708
49707 49798 49608 48708 39708

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each wins JD 15
66875 66884 66974 67874 76874
66873 66864 66774 65874 56874

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10
66825 66834 66924 67824 76824
66823 66814 66724 65824 56824

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8
36438 36447 36537 37437 46437
36436 36427 36337 35437 26437

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 70 each wins JD 7
65013 65022 65112 66012 75012
65011 65002 65912 64012 55012

Ticket numbers **58852 43248 74987 18037** win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers **44540 25218 17194** win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

6253 7547 2762 Win JD 20 each
7120 0869 Win JD 10 each

6191 9748 5742 Win JD 10 each
1971 4153 Win JD 5 each

033 826 763 751 592 Win JD 5 each

8000 tickets ending with **51x (6)** Win JD 5 each

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TALENTED ENTERTAINMENT

TALENTED ENTERTAINMENT

Handball gaining popularity in Jordan

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Handball, a team sport not much often talked about on the sports circuit, is slowly but surely gaining popularity in Jordan.

The Jordanian national men's and women's teams recently had a series of matches in Amman and Irbid with their Iraqi counterparts. Earlier, the national teams travelled to Syria where they met the Syrian national teams.

"If we have such continued competition, our teams will most certainly improve," said Dr. Sari Hamdan, deputy chairman of the Jordan Handball Federation (JHF). "Only competitions can really evaluate our teams' training, preparations and shortcomings."

The Jordan Handball Federation is working closely with the federations in neighbouring countries so as to organise similar matches on a regular basis. The men's and youth national teams will travel to Iraq to take part in a mini-tournament organised by the Iraqi Handball Federation from Sept. 15-20.

"If we compare our national teams to those of

other Arab countries we still have a long way to go," said Dr. Hamdan to the Jordan Times. "The federation, teams, and players face many obstacles and problems which hinder progress and improvement."

"For example, we have a major problem because of the scarcity of handball courts for practice and competition. Although the Al Hassan Sports City will do much in solving this problem in the north of the country, Amman needs more courts like the Sports Palace which is used by more than 10 federations."

Dr. Hamdan stressed that the lack of much needed competition, especially with Arab and Asian national teams, adversely affects our players. Referees and coaches should also attend advanced training courses. But this is not possible with the available financial resources.

The financial capability of the Jordan Handball Federation is limited and mainly depends on the Ministry of Youth and some private contributions.

Dr. Hamdan emphasised the importance of "setting up a sports fund which will most certainly help in financ-

ing and upgrading all our sports teams and federations."

"The Jordan Handball Federation needs a special court for the national teams," Dr. Hamdan said. The women's team trains at the University of Jordan which has been "very helpful and cooperative." The men's team however uses the Sports Palace court "which is often reserved for practice and competition, by other federations."

The latest matches against the Syrian and Iraqi national teams clearly showed how well our national teams are prepared. Last week the Iraqi national teams played a total of six matches in Amman and Irbid.

In the opening matches, the Iraqi women's team won with a score of 20-9, while the Jordanian men's team beat their Iraqi counterpart 25-20.

The matches in Irbid saw an improvement in the Jordanian women's performance although the Iraqis won the match 24-17. The men drew 21-21 when the Iraqis scored two goals in the final minutes of the match.

The final matches were played again at Al Hussein Youth City where the Jorda-

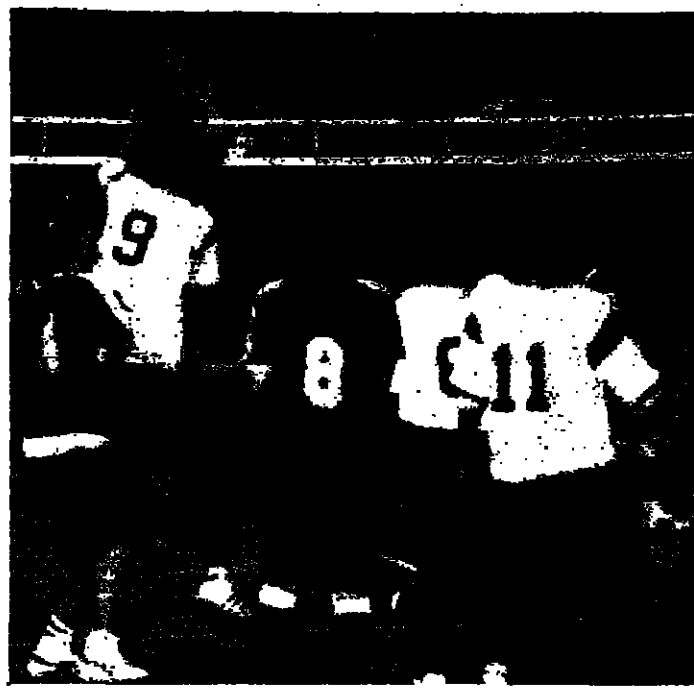
nian women's team played the best of their three matches and beat the Iraqi team 17-16. Jordanian veteran player and coach Rana Fashe took part in this final game before her retirement.

On the same day the Jordanian men's team also beat the Iraqis 24-17.

The Jordanian men's team produced good results. "The women's team however was not up to the standard we would have liked it to be," Dr. Hamdan said. "The main reason behind this is that none of the Jordanian clubs have women's teams! The national team has no team to play against unless we invite other national teams or play abroad. This of course limits competition and experience."

"We hope that some of the 16 clubs registered at the handball federation seriously try to form women's teams."

The Jordan Handball Federation wants to prepare the national teams for competition in Arab and Asian championships. The federation is in contact with other Arab federations to organise friendly matches for the national teams. On the other



The Jordanian women's national handball team (white shirts) on the attack against the Iraqi national team, at Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid.

hand the federation has already organised first and second division club competitions and the under 19 and under 17 competitions are now underway, with Al Arabi, Al Hussein and Yarmouk Al Shouneh clubs in the lead.

As for the next Arab Championships, Dr. Ham-

dan said: "We really hope the Arab Championships due to be held in Syria next year will actually take place, as it is often cancelled or postponed. It will certainly be a good incentive for our national teams to train harder and achieve a good standing among the other delegations who will take part."

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Many promises will be being made today. It is very important to get your promises today but you must be certain to see on a critical and sensible course of action that doesn't get you involved in a negative situation.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You want to expand your horizons today. You have some unfinished business to do and in meditating you are apt to do nothing at all today.

TAUROS: (April 20 to May 20) In the present predicament that is yours between obligations and going off with friends you can lose out if you try to combine the two.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study whatever will bring you some highly favorable results from a forthright acting partner and leave worldly interest until a better moment.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look to your own allies for the good things of life that mean the most to you and be with someone who have the background to aid you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are apt to find that those you value the most are so wrapped up with their own concerns they do little of the much you have expected from them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You and your family are apt to

conflict on both sides and methods now so don't bring up anything for your joint decisions do your own job as well as possible.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) A secret desire about your promises can keep you from getting the benefit of that conversation to end some routine problem with a daily life.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make a point during the day to avoid doing anything that could be interpreted as a lack of interest by some unscrupulous associates or taking some chance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever you have in mind regarding some new approach at your usual outlets is good to avoid temptation to an old habit.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have some interesting wish but its going to cost a lot more money than you think so be careful you do not involve your finances over your head.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your need for more of this world's goods requires a great deal with your family as to the best means to attain them rather than going it on your own.

Birth Stone for July: Ruby.

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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Sampdoria beaten in 1st league match

ROME (R) — League champions Sampdoria was the biggest losers on the first day of the new Italian soccer season, losing 3-2 to Cagliari in Sardinia. Despite twice taking the lead through Brazilian Silas and captain Roberto Mancini, Sampdoria lost to goals from Cagliari's Uruguayan attackers Enzo Francescoli and Jose Herrera. Even the late addition of Italian striker Gianluca Vialli, brought on as a second half substitute, could not swing the game and Cagliari were unlucky not to score a fourth goal. Internazionale Milan, the reigning UEFA Cup holder and third in the league last season, managed only a 1-1 home draw against Foggia, the newly-promoted second division champions. But city rival AC Milan, under new management this season, kicked off with a 1-0 win, at Ascoli while much-fancied Juventus beat Fiorentina by the same scoreline in Turin.

Atletico struggles against Burgos

MADRID (R) — Atletico Madrid kicked off its season with an uninspired 2-0 win in the Spanish first division against a nine-man Burgos team deprived of its first-choice goalkeeper after scuffles broke out on the pitch. After a goalless first half, the match erupted in the 46th minute when Burgos goalkeeper Agustin Elduayen was sent off for a professional foul on striker Manolo Sanchez. The referee awarded a penalty but his decision sparked an immediate protest and Burgos's Enrique Ayucar was sent off after a scuffle for kicking out at the Atletico players. Four minutes later, after Burgos had brought on substitute goalkeeper Miguel Baston as numerical replacement for midfielder Joseba Aguirre, the penalty was converted by Manolo.

PSV tops Dutch League

AMSTERDAM (R) — PSV Eindhoven maintained its 100 per cent record with comfortable 3-1 away win over a lacklustre Sparta Rotterdam to go top of the Dutch first division. Last year's League champions, PSV opened the scoring in the 16th minute when libero Giga Popescu rifled in a 15-metre shot. The team then seemed to lose its attacking edge until a halftime pep talk from trainer Bobby Robson restored the momentum. "In the first half, the players were a bit slow and easy-going. In the break, we talked it over," said the former England manager. Wim Kieft scored in the 56th minute and midfielder Erwin Koeman added the third five minutes later after Sparta's Michel Valke lost control of the ball. Sparta striker Edwin Varens scored a consolation goal shortly afterwards.

South Korea wins handball championship

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — South Korea beat Japan 27-23 (13-8) Sunday in the finals of the Asian Handball Championship and will represent Asia in next year's Olympic Games in Barcelona. South Korea is also qualified to compete in Group A in the 1993 World Championship in Sweden. China beat Qatar 29-17 and finished third. Qatar was fourth. South Korea captured the women's title by beating Taiwan 39-20 Saturday to represent Asia in the Olympics.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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PROTECT THOSE TRICKS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 10 9 8
♥ 5
♦ A K 6 5 4
♣ 7 6 5

EAST
♠ A 7 6
♥ K 4 3
♦ J 10 9 4 2
♣ 7 6 5

WEST
♠ Q 10 9 7
♥ 3
♦ Q 9 8
♣ 3

SOUTH
♠ Q 5 2
♥ A K Q 8
♦ Void
♣ A K J 10 4 2

The bidding: South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Some hands look so comfortable there doesn't seem to be any way to go down. Be careful. Bridge is a funny game.

What for a while looked like a most promising hand fizzled out when North showed strength in diamonds and not much else. South settled for a final contract of three no trump. It looked all too easy. After all, South seemed to have nine running tricks in hand.

West led the jack of hearts and,

since nine tricks were there for the taking if the queen of clubs dropped either singleton or doubleton, declarer won in hand and tried the ace and king of clubs. Slightly disappointed when the lady failed to appear, declarer conceded a club trick to East and won the heart return in hand.

Since there were now only eight tricks in sight, declarer decided to ruck clubs and then go after spades. West carefully discarded a spade and four diamonds on the clubs. When declarer now led a spade, East won and forced out declarer's last heart stopper. When West gained the lead with the ace of spades, there were two winning hearts to cash for down one.

Declarer tackled suits in the wrong order. After winning the first heart trick, declarer should have led the queen of spades immediately. That's declarer's ninth trick, so the defenders must win, otherwise declarer will abandon spades, concede a club trick and claim the contract. And the defenders must win the second spade when South leads it for the same reason. But now declarer can come to nine tricks via two spades, three hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. What a simple game, bridge is.

Sabatini, Capriati to clash at U.S. Open quarters

NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Capriati routed Jo Durie, a Briton more than twice her age, 6-1, 6-2 in 52 minutes, moving into the U.S. Open quarterfinals for a showdown with defending champ Gabriela Sabatini.

At 15 years, five months, Capriati figures she's got it down just right, to win it all here and become the youngest U.S. champion in history.

"Last year, definitely, I didn't expect to win it," she said. "I know, because I got to the semis of the French, then I thought, well, maybe I can go pretty far. But it is going to be tough. And here, I see it more vivid. It is closer to me."

She is non-stop on the court, no messing around, no giggles. Four matches, all straight sets, average time 48 minutes.

"She looks like she wants to get on with the game," said the 31-year-old Durie. "She serves very fast. She walks very fast, a bit like Steffi (Graf). You know that if, given half a chance, she is just going to whack the ball as hard as she can. Instead of me getting on with playing my game, I was watching her all the time. I think

that is sort of the intimidation that you get from Jennifer."

Sabatini is suddenly looking vulnerable, despite her insistence that she's playing better than last year.

She double-faulted a dozen times, smacked 41 unforced errors and failed to take advantage of easy opportunities against Jana Novotna, yet still won 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) because Novotna played worse.

Sabatini benefited from a bit of luck at times, including one running forehand in the second set that clipped the net and darted past Novotna as she charged in for a volley.

Against Capriati, Sabatini will have the added confidence of having beaten her in six of their seven tournament matches, losing only at the Canadian Open last month when she had to retire because of a blister. In a made-for-television exhibition here last Sunday, Sabatini also beat Capriati in straight sets.

Then men had a more dramatic day on the court. Swede Stefan Edberg, the no. 2 seed, survived a thrilling match against Michael Chang, 7-6 (7-2),

7-5, 6-3, that was much closer than the straight-sets result might indicate.

"He played some really unbelievable shots and I had to play my best tennis to beat him," said Edberg, who will play Javier Sanchez in the quarterfinals and try to reach the semis for the first time since 1987. Sanchez beat Gabriel Markus of Argentina 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

"This is the best night match I've ever played here," said Edberg, who has never reached the U.S. Open finals.

Chang, who beat John McEnroe in the third round with 13 winning lobs, couldn't get that shot as often past the quicker, more agile Edberg. But the speedy Chang kept rallies alive with lunging shots that startled Edberg several times when he thought the point was won.

"It just came down to Stefan was able to play the bigger points better," Chang said. "I really wanted to go out there and attack him. I think I was able to do that. I got into a little bit of trouble when I didn't get my first serve in."

Wimbledon champion Michael Stich stalked off the stadium

court, angry with himself even after winning and gaining a quarterfinals match against Ivan Lendl, a 7-5, 6-7 (4-7), 6-4, 6-2 victor over Goran Ivanisevic in a 3½-hour duel.

"I don't like the way I played," the tall, thin German growled after his second straight long match, a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Derrick Rostagno. "I have no touch for this surface, for the balls, and I don't have the right timing when I'm hitting the balls."

Stich, stretched to five grueling sets in the third round by Maliva Washington, looked so comfortable on Wimbledon's grass but still hasn't adjusted to the medium-fast hard courts at the National Tennis Centre.

He got through this match with a lot of help from Rostagno, who sprayed errors around the court in the first and third sets. Stich did the same in the second set, but bore down to come up with the big points in the tiebreaker.

"I'm never getting the feeling I'm enjoying being out there and hitting the ball," Stich said. "I'm having to fight every point, and it's hard work. I'm having to concentrate on every game."

Tight Spot takes Arlington Million by a head

CHICAGO (R) — In a stirring four-horse photo finish, pre-race favorite Tight Spot stretched to a head victory in the 11th running of the Arlington Million at the Arlington International Racecourse.

Tight Spot, jockeyed by Laffit Pincay, ran a second behind the pace-setting 32-1 long-shot Chien Blanc for most of the race. He took the lead in the stretch and then held off fast-closing bids by runner-up Algenib and third

place finisher Kartajana. Chien Blanc finished a neck back in fourth place.

The victory kept alive Tight Spot's perfect record of eight wins in as many career turf tries for trainer Ron McAnally, who

saddled John Henry to victories in the first and fourth millions. Pincay became the first jockey to win two millions. McAnally is now level with Charlie Whittingham with three wins apiece in the two kilometres turf classic.

Mutt'n'Jeff



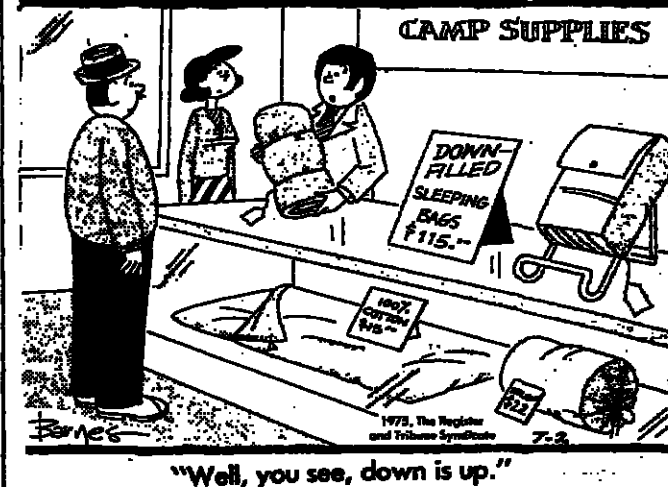
Andy Capp



Peanuts



THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LARNS
O _ _ _ _

SCABI
O _ _ _ _

NENKLE
O _ _ _ _

CLOSLIA
O _ _ _ _

Now arrange the circled letters to form the starting answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: " _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TARDY BASIN NEARBY EMPIRE
Answer: Might describe the planet Mars - "RED - - - BARREN"

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte

ACROSS
1 Dregs behind
5 "Country"
9 Knap in the
14 Descended
15 Stomach
16 "Where there's
smoke, there's
fire" e.g.
17 Melodious
Horn
18 Lulu
19 At - (tree)
20 Cane
23 A mean Amin
24 Summe - issue
26 Lyric poem
28 Cain
32 Disfigure
33 Chemical suffix
34 Oceanus or
Cronus
38 Playing the
mimic
41 That girl
43 Fur piece
44 Allen's -
Days
45 Charlotte of TV
47 Miss West
48 Stay calm
53 Noted Bruin
56 Beasts
57 - Magnon
58 Stay calm
65 See eye to eye
66 - - - planet
67 Long river
68 Singer Abdul
69 Shortly
70 Logan or Palms
71 Word before
circle or tube
72 Shipshape
73 Full part

DOWN
1 Bath powder
2 Toast topper
3 Cold flow
derelict
4 Yaff
Confidence
attitude
5 Cautious
6 Zola heroine
7 Midcast cereal
8 Hit
9 Peace pipes
10 Bed of bottom
11 "Anna
Karenina" star
12 - on (argued)
13 Last name in
tractors
21 Summer apper
22 Signal
23 Post-Kayyum
27 CA valley
28 Lifeless
29 Light measures
30 Jaws-a-riaf of
India
31 Put a match to
35 TV role for
Mussie
43 Also
45 Also
50 Eisenhower's
credulous
51 Gr. nickname
52 Wasp
53 Gracie kin
54 Lee's daughter
55 Summer TV fare
56 World Cup star
58 Descartes
61 Portico
62 High jump place
63 Earthworm
64 Close

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 30/8/1991	Tokyo Close Date 2/9/1991
Sterling Pound	1.6809	1.6817
Deutsche Mark	1.7470	1.7467
Swiss Franc	1.5265	1.5268
French Franc	5.9325	5.9315
Japanese Yen	136.83	136.84
European Currency Unit	1.1755	1.1761

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Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.75	6.00
Sterling Pound	10.81	10.68	10.56	10.56
Deutsche Mark	9.00	9.06	9.25	9.31
Swiss Franc	8.86	7.87	7.81	7.75
French Franc	9.00	9.31	9.37	9.50
Japanese Yen	7.53	7.15	6.87	6.75
European Currency Unit	9.68	9.71	9.81	9.81

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	347.25	6.80	Silver	3.82	.090

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.690	.692
Sterling Pound	1.1582	1.1640
Deutsche Mark	.3943	.3963
Swiss Franc	.4508	.4531
French Franc	.1161	.1167
Japanese Yen	.5037	.5062
Dutch Guilder	.3501	.3519
Swedish Krona	.1087	.1092
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532
Belgian Franc	.01916	.01926

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.7850	1.7900
Saudi Riyal	.0770	.0780
Saudi Riyal	.1835	.1842
Kuwaiti Dinar	—	—
Qatari Riyal	.1882	.1880
Egyptian Pound	.2100	.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7600
UAE Dirham	.1865	.1880
Greek Drachma	.3400	.3500
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4400

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	31/8/1991 Close	1/9/1991 Close
All-Share	106.19	106.84
Banking Sector	98.93	99.93
Insurance Sector	116.59	117.35
Industry Sector	113.39	113.64
Services Sector	130.02	129.71

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6850/60	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1410/15	Canadian dollar
	1.7440/50	Deutsche marks
	1.9655/65	Dutch guilders
	1.5285/95	Swiss francs
	35.87/92	Belgian francs
	5.9230/80	French francs
	1302/1303	Italian lire
	136.75/85	Japanese yen
	6.3340/90	Swedish crowns
	6.8225/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.7375/7425	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	347.60/348.10	U.S. dollars

Thatcher says 'China will become an economic power to astonish the world'

TOKYO (R) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Monday that China would become an economic power to astonish the world and that the economic success would bring democracy.

She told a business audience of more than 2,000 that Japan, as the major political democracy in Asia, had a key role to play to help China in this transition.

"As can be seen across the Pacific from Hong Kong to San Francisco, the Chinese are very enterprising, who with good government will display their talent and industry," she said.

Despite the June 1989 Beijing military crackdown on student-led protest, Mrs. Thatcher said, China had vigorously continued economic reforms, giving people incentives and decision-making that enabled them to raise living standards.

"China will become an economic power to astonish the world. Political democracy will follow," she said.

Mrs. Thatcher described communism as "a very bad creed to start with. This century has seen the rise and collapse of this totally materialistic creed. It was made for those at the centre, not the people. Democracy makes rulers subject to the ballot box."

Mrs. Thatcher called on Japan to take a leading role in bringing stalled GATT world trade talks to a conclusion.

"Amid praise for Japan's achievements, however, the champion of popular capitalism

gently chided her hosts for recent stocks scandals in which ordinary investors lost out.

"I would like to see Japan as a champion of genuine free trade," she said. "There is not much time. It is time to be firm and get decisions."

The latest round of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was to have been completed at the end of 1990 but talks stalled over differences about farm trade between the United States, the 12-nation European community and Japan.

Mrs. Thatcher said trade in manufactured goods had boomed since World War II because it had been conducted under GATT rules, while protectionism and abuses had marked the agriculture, services and intellectual property sectors not governed by GATT.

"I would like to see a North Atlantic free trade area, with the United States, Canada, Mexico and the countries of the European Community and east Europe. The wealthy nations have an obligation to open their markets to poorer nations," she said.

She proposed two other areas where Japan should play a more active world role.

One was to help authoritarian and totalitarian countries learn democracy and free enterprise.

The other was to ensure the soundness of the world financial system, with fair competition, eliminating cartels and honest and fair financial institutions.

Turkey seeks to revive exports by new incentives

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish government, facing a general election on Oct. 20, is preparing an incentive package to revitalize exports, businessmen said.

They said the government plans to reduce the cost of credits to exporters selling new products or selling in new markets and give higher premium to traders exporting to distant countries.

Exporters to new markets may also get government support for set-up and promotion costs, the businessmen said.

The government last month approved a decree providing new funds to the state-run Eximbank to enable it to extend cheap credits to industrial exporters. The amount was not disclosed.

The money will be raised by diverting 25 per cent of the government's support and price stabilization fund to Eximbank in

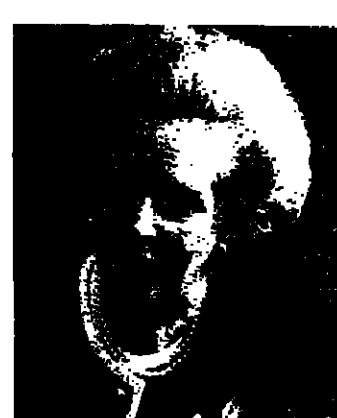
October. This will be raised to 50 per cent in 1992.

Inflation and growing budget deficits have eroded the popularity of the ruling centre-right Motherland Party, which is keen to produce brighter economic news ahead of the election.

Turkey's exports grew 11.5 per cent in 1990 after a slight fall in 1989, when the ending of tax rebates and a central bank policy to keep lira depreciation below the inflation rate helped to end eight years of growth.

The foreign trade deficit fell 12.3 per cent to \$3.37 billion in the first half of this year. The deficit stood at \$9.3 billion at end-1990, up 124 per cent on end-1989.

Nearly 100 trading firms have shut since 1989 with a loss of 5,000 jobs due to stagnation aggravated by the Gulf crisis.



Margaret Thatcher

Mrs. Thatcher did not explicitly refer to the recent Japanese brokerage scandals.

However her business audience can have in no doubt what she meant when she said:

"Popular capitalism is spreading worldwide. More and more people will depend on the integrity of financial institutions. Small and large investors must be given the same treatment."

The Japanese public was shocked in June and July when it learned that the nation's biggest securities houses made a habit of compensating elite clients for investment losses while letting ordinary private citizens suffer.

The government has promised to tighten the law to prevent such abuses in future.

Mrs. Thatcher arrived in Japan Sunday for a 10-day visit as guest of the giant Nippon Telephone and Telegraph Corp (NTT).

World economy can afford it Soviets need lots of cash

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union will need tens of billions of dollars to rescue its shattered economy and many economists believe the money can be found without putting too much strain on the world economy.

While some rich nations such as the deficit-burdened United States will have difficulty generating cash for Moscow, the global pool of savings seems adequate for the task without the need for a big increase in world interest rates.

"It's a lot of money, but it's not enough to put tremendous upwards pressure on interest rates," said William Stirling, manager of international economics for financial house Merrill Lynch and Co.

Economists said the Soviet Union would need anywhere from \$15 billion to \$30 billion annually for the next few years to overhaul its battered economy and make the shift from communism to capitalism.

The money is expected to come mainly from the United States and its wealthy allies and eventually from such organizations as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

President George Bush has been reluctant to make any firm commitments until the Soviet situation becomes clearer. But he and other leaders of the industrial world have pledged to do what they can to help foster democracy and capitalism in their former cold war enemy.

The extra financing needs, coming on top of demands for capital from eastern Europe for economic reforms and from the Gulf for economic reconstruction, has fanned fears of a global credit crunch that would put a crimp in the world economy.

But many economists believe that such fears are overblown.

Christopher Potts of Banque Indosuez in Paris dismissed fears of higher interest rates because of transfers to Moscow as a "fairly tale from the 'shortage of capital' school."

Economists said that the initial impact on the global economy of reconstruction in the Gulf and reforms in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union will be positive as those countries buy more goods from the rest of the world.

In the longer run, the extra \$100 billion or so per year that might be needed in 1991-1992 for the Gulf, eastern Europe and the

Soviet Union will put some upward pressure on world interest rates and will slow global growth, but not much.

Econometric models such as those run by the International Monetary Fund calculate that financing demands on that order might push up world interest rates by around a quarter to a half of a percentage point. That would lead to slightly slower growth in the industrial world in the future, but not much, probably less than 0.25 per cent.

Economists said the impact is so small because the world economy is so large.

They added that some of the impact has probably already been taken into account by world financial markets and thus is reflected in the current level of global interest rates.

Peter Perkins, an international economist at the DRI/McGraw Hill think tank in Massachusetts, added that the Soviet Union and eastern Europe have large amounts of savings and that some of that money can be used to finance reforms.

"The Soviet Union and eastern Europe have fairly high savings rates," he said. "They save because there's nothing to buy."

IMF delays loan payment to Manila

MANILA (R) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warning that Manila's economic recovery programme could be blown off course, is delaying payment to the Philippines of part of a \$900 million loan, Philippine officials said Tuesday.

The IMF was to have paid the tranche of \$49.2 million to the Philippines after a scheduled review of monetary and fiscal targets in August.

But central bank official said the IMF had agreed to postpone the review until October to allow the Philippines to adjust budgeted revenues to meet the targets, the officials said.

The 18-month stand-by credit, designed to underpin the economic recovery of the Philippines after a series of natural disasters, was agreed last February.

The Philippines committed itself to curb its budget deficit and keep spending under control to rein in inflation as part of the stabilisation programme.

But Finance Secretary Jesus Eustanislao, who discussed the issue in Washington with the IMF last week, said the fund was concerned about delays in meeting the fiscal targets.

He said in a note to President Corason Aquino, released to the press, that the IMF was worried revenue targets may not be met after recent reductions in domestic oil prices and the cutting of a 9.0 per cent import levy to 5.0 per cent.

Unless new revenue was found, the IMF was concerned that the Philippines would exceed the agreed budget deficit for the year of 26.6 billion pesos (\$985 million), officials told reporters.

Mr. Eustanislao said congress should pass new tax measures, and government expenditure would be curtailed. In addition, the tariff on oil could be raised.

IMF support is vital towards ensuring recovery of the battered Philippine economy, hit by the sharp rise in international oil prices caused by the Gulf crisis last year and a series of natural disasters, including the eruption of Mount Pinatubo volcano in June.

"Our programme (with the IMF) is still alive, but we have to take the firm actions required to ensure it stays that way," Mr. Eustanislao said.

He said financial difficulties at the state-owned National Power Corporation (NPC) were adding to the government's problems in adhering to agreed targets.

N. Korea urges its people to strengthen socialism

TOKYO (R) — North Korea Monday strongly urged its people to defend socialism, in apparent reaction to the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union.

The ruling Communist Party daily Rodong Sinmun made the call in an editorial headlined: "Let us think and work as required by the juche (self-reliance) idea."

"What is important in carrying out the task is for everyone to firmly establish an ideological viewpoint and way of thinking of our own style in conformity with the demands of the juche idea," the paper said.

The editorial was quoted by the official (North) Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo.

"Armed firmly with the juche idea... it is possible to smash any counter-revolutionary offensive of the enemy, strengthen in every way the driving force of the revolution, and with its power, strictly safeguard the socialist system in our country," the paper said.

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Fighting dies down after Yugoslavia accepts peace plan

BELGRADE (R) — Fighting died down in the rebel Republic of Croatia Monday after Yugoslavia's warring factions signed a European Community (EC) — brokered peace plan.

Sporadic mortar attacks in various parts of Croatia were reported overnight but the major flashpoints appeared calm. Zagreb Radio said a policeman was killed in the eastern Croatian village of Laslovo and houses were set on fire in Gospić near the Adriatic coast.

But there was widespread relief that a ceasefire had been agreed following the death of almost 400 people in ethnic violence in the past two months.

"A great morning has dawned on Croatia, there is belief in the beginning of the end of all the evils," the Croatian News Agency (HINA) proclaimed.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman was more cautious. "The end is still far away," he said.

"The fact that representatives of Serbia ... accepted the (EC) declaration and documents on a ceasefire is in itself a great thing and a victory for our just policy. But it remains to be seen what will happen in reality."

Yugoslavia's six republics early Monday accepted and signed a plan — presented by Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek, chairman of the EC Council of Ministers — for peace talks and a ceasefire in Croatia monitored by international observers.

The ceasefire agreement calls for an immediate disengagement by all sides involved in the fighting, the disbanding of all irregular paramilitary forces and the withdrawal of the federal army to barracks.

The army has been increasingly involved in the violence, fighting alongside Serbian guerrillas opposed to Croatian independence.

The republic, whose declaration of independence on June 25 sparked off the fighting, has a 600,000-strong Serb minority among its population of 4.5 million.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, who blocked earlier EC peace initiatives, told Mr. Van Den Broek after the signing that Serbs and Croats must participate equally in monitoring the ceasefire.

"The victims of aggression must be protected and Serbs are the victims," Yugoslav News Agency (Tanjug) quoted Mr. Milosevic as telling Mr. Van Den

Broek.

The Dutch foreign minister said he understood Mr. Milosevic's concern for Serbs in Croatia "but I believe it is necessary to protect all victims of violence," Tanjug reported.

Monitoring the ceasefire will be carried out by the army, Croatian authorities and representatives of Serbs in Croatia. They will be backed by EC observers, who are already successfully monitoring a ceasefire in neighbouring Slovenia.

A spokesman for the EC observers said at their headquarters in Zagreb that it was too early to say how and when the mission would expand its activities to include Croatia.

He said he hoped extra observers would arrive within a week. They would be deployed as soon as possible, "but it won't be today or tomorrow."

Major arrives in Peking

PEKING (R) — British Prime Minister John Major began a three-day visit to China Monday saying it was time to end a period of international isolation imposed on Peking since the crushing of pro-democracy demonstrations two years ago.

"China has had a period of isolation. It needs people going in and telling them face-to-face what the rest of the world thinks," Mr. Major told reporters as he flew into Peking airport.

Mr. Major came from Moscow where, as representative of the Group of Seven industrialised countries, he met leaders of the reformist movement to discuss political structures emerging after the collapse of Communist rule.

British government officials said he would bring Chinese leaders, including Prime Minister Li Peng, Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin and President Yang Shangkun, on the Soviet situation. The officials said they feared China would react to Soviet developments by tightening political controls.

Centrepiece of Mr. Major's visit is the signing of an agreement Tuesday on construction of a large new airport in the British colony of Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

The \$16.3 billion U.S. project



John Major

was the subject of sharp exchanges between London and Peking before the two sides reached a breakthrough understanding on its construction in July.

Mr. Major, who has barely disguised his personal reluctance to be the first Western leader into Peking since the 1989 crackdown, made clear the visit was vital for Hong Kong's long-term interests.

"The vast majority of people in Hong Kong are pleased I am going because they recognise the importance of the airport agreement and what would happen to Hong Kong if I did not sign it."

"I have to live in the real world. It would not be proper for one to sit back and strike attitudes and let Hong Kong pay the price," he said.

Opinion polls blip up for U.K.'s embattled government

LONDON (R) — Opinion polls suggest that Prime Minister John Major's ruling Conservatives may be restoring a tarnished public image, raising the possibility again of an early British general election.

The Conservatives, in power since 1979, had trailed their Labour Party opponents during summer months when the economy was deep in recession.

An improved poll showing has coincided with forecasts of an economic recovery, although it may also reflect Mr. Major's own high global profile through the Soviet coup and its aftermath.

It also revived speculation that he might gamble on a snap election in November rather than wait until next spring.

Mr. Major, who succeeded Margaret Thatcher as prime minister last November, need not seek a new mandate before next July.

The latest Mori opinion poll gave Mr. Major's party a two-point lead over Labour. It had trailed by an average of seven points in 13 of 14 other recent samples carried out by various pollsters, although the gap had been narrowing.

"Mr. Major's world swing from fishing with Mr. George Bush in Kamehameha to his warm encounter with Soviet leaders in Moscow yesterday has served to build his stature in domestic

eyes," said political correspondent Alan Travis in the Guardian.

But Labour retorts that the next British election will be decided on bread-and-butter domestic issues, not Mr. Major's role in orchestrating a Western response to the Soviet crisis as the current chairman of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations.

The onsets on the economy now look a little better for the conservative government.

A credit-fuelled consumer boom towards the end of Mrs. Thatcher's premiership had forced it to raise interest rates as high as 15 per cent to curb soaring inflation.

That both created a recession and brought misery to millions of voters with repayments to make on home mortgage loans.

But the harsh medicine has begun to work, with inflation about halved in the past year. Interest rates have been lowered accordingly, to 11 per cent.

A new survey on the economy Monday by an influential employers' organisation, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), forecast that "the bottom of the cycle will be reached in the present calendar year."

And the latest Mori poll also found the electorate more optimistic now than a month ago about economic prospects.

Soviet coup leaders charged with treason

MOSCOW (R) — Treason charges were formally laid Monday against seven leaders of last month's foiled Soviet coup, a spokeswoman for the Russian prosecutor's office said.

They face possible death sentences if convicted.

The spokeswoman said they were charged with violating article 64 of the Russian Republic's criminal code. There is no central Soviet criminal code.

Those charged were former Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, former Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, former KGB Security Police Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov, Soviet Vice-President Genady Yanayev, Oleg Baklanov, deputy chairman of the Defence Council, and Alexander Tizyakov.

Collective farm leader Vasily Starodubtsev was to be charged later in the day, the spokeswoman said.

All seven were members of the self-proclaimed State Emergency Committee which announced on Aug. 19 it was taking power. An eighth leader, Interior Minister Boris Pugo, killed himself to avoid arrest.

The coup attempt, during which President Mikhail Gorbachev was detained at his Black Sea holiday home, collapsed after three days following public resistance led by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Treason charges were also brought against the head of the KGB Guards, Yuri Flekhanov. Similar charges are expected against the sacked speaker of the Soviet parliament, Anatoly Lukyanov.

Dozens of other leaders in the Communist Party and state hierarchy have been sacked or are under detention pending formal charges.

Cholera outbreak spreads to Tokyo

TOKYO (R) — An outbreak of cholera in eastern Japan which has already killed one person has spread to the Tokyo area, health authorities said Monday.

The latest victim, a 37-year-old Tokyo housewife, had not recently been to Chiba Prefecture where the current outbreak originated, a Tokyo City Government official said.

A couple living in Kanagawa Prefecture south of Tokyo was confirmed Sunday to be suffering from the disease. They had not recently visited Chiba either, a local official said.

The number of patients who either live in Chiba or contracted the disease while visiting there rose to eight, an official at the prefecture's Public Health Bureau said.

The only person to die so far — and thus become Japan's first cholera fatality in 23 years — was a 72-year-old woman.

None of the eight had recently travelled overseas and Japanese officials have so far found no links to an outbreak of cholera in South Korea which has affected more than 100 people.

"This is different from past outbreaks of cholera in Japan which most often come from abroad," the Chiba health official said. "Since the patients in the latest outbreak did not go overseas, the reason could lie in the food they ate."

One possible clue is the fact that at least five of the eight Chiba-related patients had eaten a particular type of round clam before falling ill. Local fishermen have voluntarily stopped selling the clams.

Officials said the Kanagawa couple had also eaten this type of clam.

Cholera is an acute bacterial infection of the small intestine, usually caused by contaminated water or food. With timely, adequate treatment patients can recover rapidly. Otherwise, the mortality rate is high.

In Seoul, a Health Ministry spokesman said the number of cholera victims in South Korea had risen to 107 since last month with the addition of a woman believed to have contracted the disease from eating undercooked squid.

U.S. singer seriously hurt in fall from horse

SYDNEY (R) — American singer Guy Mitchell, who has a string of chart-topping hits in the 1950s, is in serious condition in hospital after a horse-riding accident near the end of an Australian tour, his promoter said Monday. Mitchell, 64, is in intensive care after cracking ribs and suffering internal bleeding in a fall Friday, according to a spokeswoman for the Hawkesbury district hospital, near Sydney.

The singer, an accomplished rider who runs a ranch in the United States, was thrown from a horse on a friend's property at Wilberforce, northwest of Sydney, during a two-day break. He and his wife Betty, who arrived in Australia on Aug. 10, were due to return home to Las Vegas Monday after Mitchell's 12 concerts on the local club circuit. His last three shows were cancelled. Doctors said Mitchell was conscious but that he would remain in intensive care for at least another day or two. Mitchell's hits included Singing The Blues, My Heart Cries For You and My Truly, Truly Fair. His promoter, Regency Artists, said his last three shows were a sellout.

Get me to the phone on time

TEL AVIV (R) — The bride and groom were on time, so were the witnesses and guests — including the speaker of Israel's parliament. Only the rabbi failed to show up. But the weekend wedding went on anyway, thanks to speaker Dov Shilansky's car telephone. Realising the ceremony was unable to attend, Shilansky called the chief rabbi of the Tel Aviv suburb of Rehovot. The rabbi gave more than advice. With Shilansky relaying instructions, he performed the wedding by telephone. "I thought I would burst out crying," Hana Defev, the bride, said. "I laughed through the whole thing. Our parents were more anxious, though."

Town finally confronting labour lynching of 1919

CENTRALIA, Washington (AP) — After seven decades of bitter silence, this "town with a secret" is shining light on one of the American labour movement's darkest days. Schoolchildren are learning and historians are officially noting an event that until a few years ago was rarely even whispered about in Centralia, even as it became the stuff of legend and song elsewhere. On Nov. 11, 1919, members of the radical Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) shot dead four young World War I veterans who bolted from an Armistice Day parade to help beat up the "wobblies" and wreck their union hall in the centre of this logging and farming community about 90 miles south of Seattle. That night, after arranging a power outage, a mob of townspeople dragged wobbly member Wesley Everest from jail and hanged him from a bridge outside town. Everest, who some historians believe was castrated before his hanging, had been mistaken for the leader of the IWW local. Eight of his comrades, including the leader, were convicted in 1920 of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. The lynch mob members were never identified.

Mayor works from jail after refusing bail on graft charge

MANILA (R) — Manila Mayor Gemiliano Lopez was put behind bars after he declined to post bail pending trial on graft charges, court officials said. He said he planned to continue to function as mayor from his prison cell in the heart of Manila. Mr. Lopez was arrested by authorities at Manila airport on arrival from the United States and taken to an anti-graft court but he refused to pay bail of 15,000 pesos (\$336). Sheriff Ed Urieta said. The charges against Lopez relate to the closing of two government-run casinos in the Philippines capital last year. "I am putting myself under the authority of the court," Mr. Lopez said in a radio interview at the Manila jail where he was playing billiards with other detainees. "I am here because of my campaign to rid the city of vices," he said, adding that his lawyers had advised him to post bail because they planned to question the arrest warrants since reopened.

8 die in S. Africa violence

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — At least eight people were shot and hacked to death in clashes over the weekend between rival black factions armed with spears and guns, police said Monday.

Police moved reinforcements Monday into the black township of Soweto to prevent more fighting. Patrols in armoured vehicles moved through the township on the outskirts of Johannesburg.

Five people were killed Sunday when scores of Zulus attacked residents in Soweto's Jabulani Section. The attacks came after about 10,000 people attended a rally of the predominantly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party to honour people killed in township violence.

Members of Inkatha claimed the fighters were avenging a Saturday night attack on shacks where Inkatha supporters lived. Police said three people were killed Saturday night.

It was the first serious fighting in Soweto in recent weeks.

The attackers Sunday smashed car windows, burned at least one vehicle and threatened residents who lived next to the Mshengwe shantytown where the Inkatha shacks had been burned.

Inkatha Freedom Party to honour people killed in township violence.

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3 Indians, 3 Pakistanis killed in border clash

JAMMU, India (AP) — Three Indian and three Pakistani soldiers were killed in a border clash on India's northern frontier, where sporadic fighting has continued for one week, spokesmen for the two armies said Monday.

The clash was in the Poonch district, about 100 kilometres east of Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, and 120 kilometres northwest of Jammu, the winter capital of India's northernmost state, Jammu-Kashmir.

India said the clash Sunday began after Pakistani soldiers and Kashmiri militants moved two kilometres across the unmarked ceasefire line and opened fire with small arms, rockets and mortars on Indian troops.

The intruders later withdrew under fire, carrying an unknown number of dead and wounded, said a spokesman for the army's Northern Command. One Indian army major and two soldiers were killed, said the spokesman, who cannot be identified under military regulations.

Pakistan said Indian troops had attacked its posts across the frontier and heavy firing was continuing.

The battalion-size attacks, supported by heavy fire, were launched early in the morning. The Indian attempts were effectively foiled by Pakistani troops," said a military statement released in Islamabad. It said three Pakistani soldiers were killed.

The Pakistani statement said senior officers on both sides spoke Sunday on a hot line installed to try and contain incidents along the frontier.

India has described the latest border clashes as nothing out of the ordinary. But local residents who fled the fighting said it has been heavier than usual. India acknowledged two casualties in a previous clash last Monday.

The frontier area is closed to non-residents, and no independent confirmation of events there is available.

Kashmiri militants are fighting for the secession of the Muslim-majority state from India, which is overwhelmingly Hindu.

Both Pakistan and India claim all of Kashmir, which was split between them in the 1947-48 war. They fought over the territory again in 1965.

First trial in Berlin Wall killings begins

BERLIN (AP) — The trial of four former East German border guards accused of killing a would-be escapee opened Monday in Berlin, the first such case to come to court since the Berlin Wall fell in late 1989.

The four defendants, who have since left the military, arrived shortly before 9 a.m. (0700 GMT) and were mobbed by a crowd of waiting news photographers.

They are accused in the shooting death of Chris Gueffroy, the last person known to have died in an escape attempt at the wall.

On Feb. 5, 1989, just nine months before the hated barrier fell, four east German soldiers fatally shot Gueffroy as the 20-year-old waiter was desperately trying to scale the wall with a friend.

The victim's mother, Karin Gueffroy, took her place at the front of the packed courtroom just a few steps from Chief Judge Theodor Seidel.

Mrs. Gueffroy is a co-prosecutor in the case, under a standard provision of German law.

Defence lawyer Stefan Koenig, representing defendant Mike Schmidt, motioned almost immediately to halt the trial, saying the jury pool had unfairly eliminated people from former east Germany.

After a short recess, the court rejected that motion. Most of the morning was spent dealing with other defence motions that sought to halt or at least suspend the proceedings pending appeal.

Prosecutor Herwig Grossmann then read the indictment that described how Gueffroy was mowed down in a hail of gunfire.

The defendants, all in their mid-20s, sat with heads bowed throughout the morning session.

The defendants — Mike Schmidt, Andreas Knehnast, Peter Schmelt and Ingo Henrich — have been charged with manslaughter and attempted manslaughter. They each face up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

About 200 would-be escapees were slaughtered after the Berlin Wall, along with heavily fortified borders, sealed off east Germany in 1961.

The outcome of the proceedings in the Berlin regional court may signal what prosecutors can expect in later trials. About 300 people already are under investigation in connection with border shootings.

Defence lawyers argue that the killings were legal under east German statutes and thus can't be criminalised in the united country.

In addition, some Germans are disturbed that the underlings rather than the Communist bosses are the first to stand trial in the darkest chapter of the country's postwar history.

"We can't go by the motto 'we grab the little guys, but let the big ones get away,'" Berlin Justice Department chief Jutta Limbach said last week.

Yet, prosecutors under her control may have had no other choice.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Renegade KGB general gets awards

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has cancelled an order he signed a year ago stripping a retired KGB general of his awards and military rank for denouncing his former colleagues as Stalinists. Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Sunday that Mr. Gorbachev had cancelled the reprisals against Oleg Kalugin, effectively restoring his rank of retired major general and his state awards. It made no mention of Gen. Kalugin's pension but it seemed certain that it too would be restored. The rehabilitation of Gen. Kalugin, who won a seat in parliament in a by-election on a wave of anti-establishment fervour, was set in motion by the collapse of last month's bungled coup led by the KGB chief and other hardliners.

Raisa Gorbachev still recovering

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Sunday his wife Raisa is recovering after a "very bad bout" — apparently of nerves — during last month's attempted coup. An emotional Gorbachev struggled for words and repeated himself as he described her condition in an interview on Soviet television and the Cable News Network (CNN). "Everything is normal, everything is normal. But it will take time, it will take time," he said. It is not clear exactly what happened to Mrs. Gorbachev, 59, when she and her family were under house arrest during the coup. Mr. Gorbachev has indicated that she grew sick with worry, and she may have suffered some form of nervous breakdown. During the interview, the Russian word for "bout" was translated as heart attack. But Mrs. Gorbachev does not appear to have suffered a heart attack or stroke during the coup. She walked unassisted from an airplane when she returned to Moscow with her husband on Aug. 21. They had been under house arrest at a seaside vacation house in the Crimea. Mr. Gorbachev said his wife had given a brief telephone interview Saturday or Sunday. She has not been seen in public since returning from the Crimea.

Sri Lankan rebel leader ready for talks

COLOMBO (R) — A top Tamil guerrilla leader has said his group is ready for unconditional peace talks with the Sri Lankan government, the Observer newspaper reported Monday. The state-run newspaper said Velupillai Prabhakaran, leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, had made the statement at a news conference in the northern town of Jaffna. Jaffna is the main base of the Tigers, who are fighting for a separate state in the north and east for Sri Lanka's three million Tamil minority. The newspaper report, which could not be independently verified, also said Mr. Prabhakaran denied any involvement in the killing of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. New Delhi has accused the Tigers of killing Mr. Gandhi in a bomb attack in southern India's Tamil Nadu state in May. The Sri Lankan government has said it is prepared to reopen talks with the Tigers on condition that they renounce violence.

Bomb kills 8 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — A bomb concealed in a van exploded in a crowded Muslim neighbourhood in eastern Sri Lanka, killing eight people and wounding 20 others, the military said Monday. The explosion occurred Sunday in the town of Kantankudy in the eastern Batticaloa district. Military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, blamed Tamil Tiger rebels — who are fighting for an independent homeland in the north and the east — for the bombing. They said the Tigers had apparently meant to explode

the bomb in front of a nearby police station. The van carrying the bomb was towed by another vehicle, but was abandoned when the tow rope snapped before the van could reach its target, the official said. It was not immediately known how the bomb detonated. Four people, including an eight-year-old girl, died on the spot and four others died in the hospital, said officials at the Joint Operations Command in Colombo. The explosion also damaged several shops in the area.

U.S. has secret bases in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — The United States operates secret military bases in Colombia to help it maintain surveillance on cocaine smuggling, the opposition daily La Prensa reported Sunday. The newspaper said the United States had an air base inside a Colombian military base at Tolimaida, 70 kilometres southwest of Bogota, and a second base inside a Colombian police installation near Bogota. The Colombian government says it has authorised some U.S. flights to track drug smugglers but has not disclosed the existence of U.S. bases on Colombian territory. Officials were unavailable for comment Sunday. La Prensa said a light aircraft suspected of smuggling drugs which crashed mysteriously in southwestern Colombia in September 1990 had been shot down by a U.S. aircraft from Tolimaida. Colombian authorities promised an investigation but never published the results, it said. The report fuels a controversy in Colombia over overflights by U.S. military aircraft. Colombia's Civil Aviation Department suspended a U.S. pilot from flying in Colombia for six months last week, blaming his aircraft for a near-miss with a Colombian airline last month.

8 killed in Brazil building collapse

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — Eight people have died when a building under construction collapsed in the town of Volta Redonda, the Brazilian News Agency, Agencia Estado, said. It said 26 people were injured in the collapse and nine were undergoing treatment in a hospital. Wander de Paulo Maia, who monitors constructions in Volta Redonda, an industrial town 130 kilometres inland from Rio De Janeiro, told Manchete Television that the building apparently did not have sufficient foundation to support the weight.

Bush to focus on domestic policy

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President George Bush and most of his cabinet are headed back to work this week as the administration renews its push for educational reforms and tries to dispel charges that it lacks a domestic agenda. Mr. Bush will end his summer vacation and at the same time open the new academic year Tuesday by visiting two public schools and delivering a back-to-school speech to students in Lewiston, Maine. After a year dominated by foreign policy crises, from the Gulf war to the splintering of the Soviet Union, Mr. Bush is back trying to fulfill his campaign pledge to be "the education president." Come November, Mr. Bush will be heading abroad again, with journeys to Europe and the Far East. But for September and October, the White House will try to build pressure on Congress to act on a series of stalled domestic initiatives, from school reforms and a crime package to a national energy strategy and a \$105-billion highway bill. "We're really looking forward to the fall ... trying to figure out how best to get congressional action on some of our programmes," Mr. Bush said after the first of two recent strategy sessions with domestic advisers at his summer home here.

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